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Engraved from a painting by
J. M. W. Turner

ALL SAINTS CHURCH, PALACE, COLLEGE &c.

A BRIEF
HISTORICAL
AND
DESCRIPTIVE ACCOUNT
OF
MAIDSTONE
AND ITS ENVIRONS.

BY S. C. Lampreys.

Enchanting vale! beyond whate'er the Muse
Has of Achaia or Hesperia sung!
O vale of bliss! O softly swelling hills!
On which the Power of Cultivation lies,
And joys to see the wonders of his toil.

Thomson.

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MAIDSTONE:
PRINTED AND PUBLISHED BY J. BROWN,
KENT ARMS OFFICE, WEEK STREET.

1834.

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87, WEEK STREET.

P R E F A C E.

THE writer of the following pages is induced to lay them before the public by the hope that they will, in some degree at least, supply a want which has long been complained of by the inhabitants and visitors of Maidstone,—that of some general account of this important and flourishing town and its beautiful and romantic neighbourhood. In preparing their contents for publication, (which were chiefly compiled for his own information and amusement,) it has been his aim equally to avoid a prolixity on points, which could only be interesting to a few, and that superficial brevity which would be unsatisfactory to all, in short he has endeavoured to render his matter at once concise and sufficiently comprehensive for the purposes of the general reader.

The historical information has been obtained from works of established authority, to which in

most cases reference is given, and where a variance in account has been found, a careful collation has preceded the adoption of any particular statement. The descriptive portion of the volume is given from the writer's personal observation, and he trusts that it will not be found to have been made with negligence or great inaccuracy. In the composition his only study has been to convey his information to his reader in an easy and intelligible manner. The local nature of the poetical pieces appended to the Excursions, must form the apology for their insertion.

With regard to the illustrative prints, lithographed by Mr. T. L. Merritt, of this town, from his own sketches, little need be said: to those who have seen the interesting objects and scenes they pourtray, their minute accuracy, as to all, the beauty of their drawing, must at the first glance be obvious.

The neat map of the environs of Maidstone, with the plan of the town, will doubtless be considered a desirable addition to the volume, as exhibiting the localities of most of the places and objects described, and thus forming an index to the Excursions: nor will the publisher, it is hoped, be denied the gratification of the reader's approval of the more mechanical portions of the work.

Supported then by these auxiliaries, the writer presents his little book to the public with the cheerful but unpresuming confidence of one tendering that which he feels will not be altogether an unacceptable offering, and who, while he regrets that it is not of greater value, ventures to believe that its defects will be regarded with an indulgent eye, by those to whom it is submitted, on account (if from no other cause) of his motive in its presentation.

Maidstone, S. C. L.
15th December, 1834.



SONNET.

How tender, yet unyielding, are the ties
That bind the heart unto its place of birth,
In that fond homage which it e'er denies
To aught beyond that hallow'd spot of earth :
'Tis of our purest joys the social hearth,
Round which they gather ;—'twas our paradise
In childhood's golden days, when sinless eyes
Create their own wide heaven of blissful mirth :
And thus, sweet Valley of the Medway, seem
No other scenes to me so fair as thine,—
Remembrancers of many a sunny dream
Of rapture, ah ! as fleeting as divine,—
Which with their beauties thus a spell combine
To make thee of my fondest praise the theme.

ENVIRONS OF Maidstone.



REFERENCE.

- 1 All Saint's Church
- 2 Trinity Church
- 3 Wesleyan Chapel
- 4 Independent Chapel
- 5 Baptist Chapel
- 6 Unitarian Chapel
- 7 Baptist Chapel
- 8 Baptist Chapel
- 9 Baptist Chapel
- 10 Quakers Chapel
- 11 Wesleyan Chapel
- 12 The Town Hall
- 13 Five Grammar Schools formerly Corpus Christi Hall
- 14 Rem of St Faith's Church
- 15 The Infirmary
- 16 Subscription Academy
- 17 The Workhouse

Scale 1/4 inch = 1 mile

"TOOTELL" SURVEYOR & MAIDSTONE

MAIDSTONE.

OF THE SITUATION OF MAIDSTONE.

Few towns can be found more advantageously situated than that of Maidstone: lying near the middle, and in one of the richest parts of the fertile county of Kent; within an easy journey of the metropolis or sea coast; on the banks of a beautiful and navigable river; with a neighbourhood abounding with fruit, corn, hops and timber, supplying an inexhaustible store of every requisite for building, and thickly studded with populous villages and country mansions; it possesses alike for trade or retirement almost irresistible attractions. With these numerous and powerful inducements it is not surprising that its present population should be found nearly treble what it was in the middle of the last century, or that it should have been, from the earliest times to which our historical records refer, a place of considerable importance.

OF THE ANTIQUITY OF THE TOWN AND DERIVATION OF ITS NAME.

Camden and other antiquaries consider Maidstone to have been the Roman *Vagniacæ*,* and one of the

* Consult Camden's *Britannia*, and the *Commentaries* of Burton and of Gale on the *Itinerary* of Antoninus.

chief towns in Britain, and, although others hold a different opinion, all seem to agree that a town of consequence existed here before the subjugation of England by the Saxons, and abundant proofs appear in the discovery of coins, urns, &c., of the residence of our Roman conquerors in the immediate vicinity, if not on the very spot now occupied by this town.

THE NAME of the place seems to have been derived from the river on which it stands, the *Medwege* or middle river of the Saxons, who therefore designated this place *Medwegeston* or the town of the Medway;* in Domesday-book it is written *Meddestane*, and in documents of the time of Edward the I. *Maydens-tane*, which some are pleased to interpret as meaning the *Town of Maids*, as the following punning Latin verse fancifully shews;

“*Petra puellarum pulcherrima villa mearum.*”

GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF THE TOWN, &c.

The town, with the exception of the West Borough, is built on a gentle slope rising from the eastern side of the Medway. The High Street, which is probably not excelled in breadth, and general grandeur by that of any country town in England, runs from the bridge foot up the side of the hill towards the east; at its upper end it is met by King-street in the same line, and at right angles by Week-street, from the north, and Gabriel's-hill,

* See Newton's Hist. of Maidstone, and Lambard's Perambulation of Kent.

(which is a continuation of Stone-street,) from the south. From these principal streets several others branch, among which may be mentioned Mill-street, Bank-street, and Pudding-lane, which are connected with the High-street; Earl-street, Union-street, St. Faith-street and Brewer-street, which are branches of Week-street, and have from themselves extensive ramifications; Church-street, Queen Anne-road, and Albion-place, which turn from King-street; and Romney Place, the Mote-road, and Knight-riding-street, which, with several others of less note, unite with Stone-street. The larger streets are regularly built, and contain many excellent houses. The river Len, which rises near Lenham, runs through the southern part of Maidstone, falling into the Medway near the bridge. The length of the town from north to south is about one mile and a quarter, and its average breadth about three quarters of a mile. It is justly celebrated for its neatness; is well paved, and lighted with gas; and abundantly supplied with most excellent water, which is conveyed in pipes from Rocky-hill on the other side of the river. The Star, in the High-street, and the Bell, in Week-street, are the two principal inns; there are besides many others of high respectability, among which are the following; the Mitre, the Haunch of Venison, the Swan, and the Queen's-head, in High-street; the Bull, and the George, on Gabriel's-hill; and the New Inn at the upper end of Week-street. The shops in every respect rival those of the capital, and supply the inhabitants with almost every article which even luxury can demand.

Maidstone is the county town, and the public meetings, and assizes for Kent, and quarter sessions for the western division of the county are held here; It is also one of the polling places at the elections for West Kent. In the time of Elizabeth it contained but 294 houses. In 1811 it had 1706 houses, and 9443 inhabitants; and in 1831 it contained 3018 houses, of which 1417 were of the annual value of £10, and 15,387 inhabitants, since which time the town has continued to increase in extent and population.

Maidstone is in the diocese of Canterbury and deanry of Sutton, and is exempt from the Arch-deacon's jurisdiction. The rectory forms part of the revenues of the Archbishop, who appoints a perpetual curate. At present Wm. Baldwin, Esq. is the lessee of the tithes, and the Rev. James Reeve the curate.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT, CHARTERS, PRIVILEGES, &c.

A minute account of these matters would be inconsistent with the purpose for which these pages are written, though some general information respecting them is absolutely necessary.

Maidstone is a borough, returning two members to parliament, which privilege it appears to have had as early as the reign of Edward the VI. in which it was first regularly incorporated, A. D. 1549, having previously, as the charter states, been governed by certain of the inhabitants called the Port-reeve and Brethren, the place being 'a capital port of the river Medway.' This privilege however was soon forfeited,

as the Maidstone men joined in the Kentish rebellion which was raised against Mary, in opposition to her marriage with Philip of Spain, by Sir Thomas Wiat of the adjoining parish of Allington.* Several charters and privileges were afterwards conferred by succeeding sovereigns.† By the last, granted in the twenty-first year of George the II., the civil authority is vested in a mayor, twelve jurats, and forty common council-men, with a recorder, a deputy recorder, and other officers. The mayor, recorder, and the three senior jurats, are justices of the peace; and the mayor is coroner for the town and parish. Sessions are held quarterly, for the trial of trespasses and misdemeanors, and the mayor is empowered, on every alternate Tuesday, to have a court of pleas for actions personal and mixed, and granting replevins, the jurisdiction of which extends over the parishes of East Barming, Loose, Boxley, Allington, Linton, and Otham, with the hamlets of New-hithe and Mill-hale. A court leet is held annually, at which the constable, and other peace officers are appointed. The town is watched by a regular and active police establishment, under the direction of an intelligent superintendant.

By the first charter of James the I. this place was incorporated under the name or style of, “*The KING’s Town and Parish of Maidstone*,” which designation it still retains.

* Vide Lambard’s Perambulation of Kent.

† One by Elizabeth, in her 2d. year: two by James the I., in his 2d. and 17th years: and one by Charles the 2d., in his 34th year.

THE ARMS of the Town are, *Or, a fess wavy azure between three torteauxes; on a chief, gules, a lion passant gardant, or.*

Maidstone gives the title of Viscount to the Earl of Winchelsea.

ANTIQUITIES.

I shall now proceed to give a brief description of the principal antiquities of the town.

THE PALACE.—The Archbishop's palace, which was also called the castle,* and was the manor house, stands on the bank of the river between the church and bridge. According to Philipott the manor and castle of Maidstone belonged to the Cornhill family, and were given by Wm. de Cornhill, in the 7th year of John, to the Archbishop of Canterbury, Stephen Langton.* Archbishop Ufford commenced the rebuilding of the house in 1348, and it was finished by Islip from the materials of an archiepiscopal mansion at Wrotham. Henry the VI. in the sixteenth year of his reign, visited Archbishop Chicheley at this house. It was repaired and enlarged by Morton, in 1486. Several of the Archbishops appear to have resided here, among them are, Courtney and Stafford who died in this house, and Cranmer who honoured Maidstone with his especial regard; he gave this palace and manor in exchange to Henry the VIII., who, in 1542, granted them to Sir Thomas Wiat of Allington, whose son, Sir Thomas, forfeited them for rebellion against Mary. The palace was granted by

* Philipott's Villare Cantianum.

Elizabeth to Sir Jacob, afterwards Lord Astley; and the manor, by James the I. to the Finch family. The Earl of Romney is now owner of the palace, and also lord of the manor.*

The greater part of the house, which is now divided into two dwellings, still exists; the front is almost entire: these remains form one of the most interesting objects in the town.

NEWARK.—The hospital for pilgrims and poor travellers, anciently called the *New Work of Presteshelle*, built about the year 1260, by Archbishop Boniface, and dedicated to St. Peter, St. Paul, and St. Thomas à Beckett, stood on the western side of the Medway.† The churches of Sutton near Dover, Linton, and East Farleigh, were afterwards appropriated by Archbishop Reynolds to the support of this establishment. On the foundation of the college, of which I shall next speak, this hospital was incorporated with it. A large and handsome building of the Gothic style, which appears to have been the chapel, is now standing, but little else remains to gratify the antiquary. Some years ago near the chapel, there was a curious arched way under ground, which was supposed to have been originally of great length, though its use was unknown: it is now built up. The dwelling house, (the residence of Mrs. Browne) which at present partially occupies the site of the hospital, still bears the name of *Newark*.

* For further particulars consult Newton's Hist. of Maidstone, and Hasted's Hist. of Kent.

† Vide Lambard, Newton and others.

COLLEGE.—In the year 1395 Archbishop Courtney obtained the licence of Richard the II. to make the parish church collegiate, and he accordingly built the college for the master or warden, chaplains, and other ministers, on the bank of the river, near the south side of the church. The college had the rectory of Maidstone church, together with its appendant chapels of Loose and Debtling, also the hospital of St. Peter, St. Paul and St. Thomas à Beckett, (of which I have given some account,) with the patronage of Sutton near Dover, Lillington, (now Linton,) and East Farleigh, and afterwards of Crundale near Wye, besides other extensive possessions. The first warden was John Wotton, a friend, and one of the executors, of Archbishop Courtney, the founder. William Grocyn, the sixth master, admitted about 1506, was a man eminent for his great learning, and an intimate friend of the celebrated Erasmus, who, from 1511 to 1514, was the rector of Aldington in this county. Wotton and Grocyn were buried in the collegiate church. The last master was John Lease, or Lys. At the dissolution of this college, in the first year of the reign of Edward the VI.* he and the other members of the establishment were pensioned.

The remains, the gate house particularly, which is still almost perfect, and presents a fine specimen of Gothic architecture, attest the original great ex-

* The act for Chantries collegiate, by which all chantries, colleges, free chapels, &c. were suppressed and granted to the crown, was passed in the 1st Session of Parliament of Edward the 6th at Westminster, which began on the 24th of November, and continued to the 24th December, 1547.

tent and grandeur of this house, which since the dissolution has been used as a private dwelling, and now forms a part of the estate of the Earl of Romney.

CORPUS CHRISTI HALL.—The house of the religious fraternity of Corpus Christi, which was of the Benedictine order, stood at the bottom of Earl street. The exact date of the foundation is not ascertained, but it is presumed to be about the middle of the 14th century.* The main object of the institution was to support the doctrine of transubstantiation, and the chief duties of the chaplain and brothers residing in the house, were to carry the holy sacrament in religious processions, to keep the feast of Corpus Christi with great pomp and solemnity, and to pray for, and to celebrate masses and dirges at the deaths of, the brothers or sisters. The extra members residing in the town and neighbourhood, and who subscribed to the support of the guild, appear to have been numerous and distinguished.

The possessions of the brotherhood were considerable, including several cottages in which old and indigent persons were permitted to dwell rent free. Soon after the suppression of this fraternity, in the first year of the reign of Edward VI. the house with other property was purchased of the crown by the corporation, out of the money arising from the sale of a portion of the church plate, vestments, orna-

* Newton says some Romish writers state that this Brotherhood was founded about 1324. For further information respecting the fraternity, consult Philipott, Newton and Hasted.

ments, &c.* and converted into a free grammar school, of which I shall speak more fully under the head of the public institutions of the town.

The chapel or hall, now the school-room, and other parts of the original building are still remaining.

ST. FAITH'S CHURCH.—A portion of the chancel of the church of St. Faith, which some have thought was parochial, though according to the best authorities, it was but a free chapel, now forms part of a dwelling house at the upper end of the open space called St. Faith's green. The date of its erection, and the name of the founder, are unknown. At the time of the general dissolution, this church fell into the king's hands, but it was purchased of the crown soon after by the corporation, together with the hall of the Corpus Christi brotherhood. It appears afterwards to have been the property of private individuals, with a reservation however to the inhabitants of a right to use the chapel for divine service, and its churchyard for burials.

This church was used at different times as a place of worship by the Walloons, who, under the protection of Elizabeth settled in this town. Under the

* In the 6th year of Edward the VI. a royal commission was issued to take possession, and make inventories and valuations of the property granted to the crown, by the act for the suppression, passed in the first year of the reign. The corporation of Maidstone were allowed to sell by far the greater part of the valuables belonging to the collegiate church of All Saints, to the value of about £200. for the purpose of purchasing Corpus Christi Hall and St. Faith's church, probably in consideration of their intention to found a school. Similar indulgence was shewn to other places. Vide Newton and the authorities cited by him.

persecution of Archbishop Laud, in 1634, this congregation was dispersed. In the beginning of the last century, the chancel was a meeting house for English Presbyterians; subsequently a part of it was converted into an assembly room. It is now a boarding school for young ladies. Several human skeletons have been dug up near the site of this church.*

FRANCISCAN MONASTERY.—Under the house at the corner formed by Gabriel's-hill and King-street, there is a large crypt, or chamber curiously vaulted with stone, evidently of great antiquity. Some suppose this to have been the site of the monastery for Franciscan or Grey Friars, which, it is said, Edward the III., with his brother, John Earl of Cornwall, founded in Maidstone.† It is stated that this opinion is in some degree supported by the early deeds relating to this house, in which it is called the *Priory* or *Friary*.

Behind the north side of the upper part of the High-street there were, a few years ago, some remains of a building of a very early date, these however were entirely removed when the new Markets were built.

Early in the last century several Roman urns, bottles and other vessels, with a skeleton and fragments of human bones, were found in digging for the foundation of a warehouse at the lower part of Earl-street.§ These remains were collected by Mr.

* See Newton's Hist. for further information on this subject.

† Vide Newton on the authority of Dugdale's Monasticon.

§ See Newton's Hist.

Drayton, then an apothecary in this place, but I cannot find that they are now in existence. I mention this discovery, as, connected with others of a similar nature of which accounts will be found in the excursions following, it appears to support the opinion that Maidstone was a station of the Romans.

At the time when local coin was used, several persons in this town had tokens struck. Not many years ago several of these were often to be found in circulation as farthings, but few are now to be seen excepting in the collections of antiquaries.

CHURCHES, &c.

ALL SAINT'S CHURCH.—The parish church of Maidstone, dedicated to All Saints, stands on the banks of the river at the south-western part of the town. It is a noble Gothic pile, and in size, and general grandeur, is said to exceed any other parish church in the county. Its length is above one hundred and sixty feet, and its breadth above ninety. The whole building is remarkable for its beauty and regularity, and the interior is kept particularly neat. It has a lofty square tower at the west end, which was formerly ornamented with a spire, nearly 80 feet in height, covered with lead; this was destroyed by lightning in 1730. The tower contains a fine peal of ten bells, the largest of which weighs about 3360 lbs., and a good clock and chimes.

This Church was originally dedicated to the Virgin Mary. In the 19th year of the reign of Richard the II. 1395, Archbishop Courtney procured a licence to

erect a college here, and to convert the parish church of St. Mary, into the collegiate church for its use, on doing which he dedicated it to All Saints. Some imagine that he pulled down the whole of St. Mary's church, and built the present one on the site, but, as he died within a year after the licence was granted,* it seems improbable that the whole of the building could have been erected by him. It is allowed by all that he built the choir, or chancel, and at the same time, at least, restored the body of the edifice, and therefore probably, as was usual, he is sometimes mentioned as the founder.

Weever, the celebrated collector of epitaphs, in his book particularized that of Courtney in this church, yet it was doubted by antiquaries, whether the stone described by Weever was not a mere cenotaph, and indeed the general opinion was that the Archbishop was interred near the Black Prince in Canterbury cathedral. It appears that he first directed that his burial place should be in Exeter cathedral, but by a codicil to his will, made when dying in Maidstone palace, he ordered his body to be buried in the cemetery of the collegiate church of Maidstone. All doubts on this subject however were removed about thirty-five years ago, when the tomb in this church was opened in the presence of several gentlemen of this town, (among whom was the

*The King's licence was given at his Castle of Leeds, on the 2nd of August 1395. Archbishop Courtney died at Maidstone, on the 28th of July, 1396. See Hasted and his authorities.

† Vide Newton's History.

Reverend James Reeve the present curate,) and the bones of the Archbishop were found at the depth of about six feet. It appeared that he had been buried without a coffin. The skeleton was six feet in length, and perfect, but soon crumbled when exposed to the air. The stone covering the grave, which is near the middle of the chancel, still bears the marks of the portrait of a bishop with his mitre and robes; the brass with which it was inlaid, was stolen during the civil war, and the inscription which surrounded the stone has long been illegible. The stalls of the fellows of the college, still ornament the chancel.

There were two chantries in this church; one of which was founded about the year 1366, by Robert Vinter, commonly called Gould's chantry, from the founder having endowed it with the estates of Goulds and Shepway in this parish; and the other by Archbishop Arundel in the year 1405; and supported by a portion of the tithes of Northfleet. These chantries were suppressed at the same time as the college.

After the dissolution, this church was granted to the town for the parish church, and the grant was afterwards confirmed by James I. In the sixth year of the reign of Edward VI. an account and valuation was made of the goods, plate, &c. belonging to the late collegiate church, by the king's commissioners. The corporation were allowed to dispose of the greater part of these, to the value of about £200, and with the produce purchased the brotherhood hall for a school, and the free chapel of St. Faith

The rectory of this church was originally in the gift of the archbishop of Canterbury. In the 19th year of Richard the II. it was appropriated by archbishop Courtney, under a bull of pope Boniface the 9th, and with the licence of the king, to the college as before stated, with a reservation to the archbishop of the patronage of the advowson, which was given in exchange by archbishop Crammer to Henry the VIII. When the college was suppressed, the rectory also fell into the king's hands, and was granted by Edward to Sir Thomas Wiat, the younger, who forfeited it for rebellion against Mary. It was soon after leased by that queen to Christopher Roper, Esq., and the patronage of the curacy granted to Archbishop Pool. The reversion of the rectory passed to the archbishop of Canterbury by a grant of Elizabeth, made in the 3d. year of her reign.

This church contains many fine monuments, which my limits will not allow me to particularize. Several of the Astley's, Tuftons, and Knatchbulls, lie buried within its walls. The family vault of the Earl of Romney is under the south end of the altar steps. The body of the church is regularly pewed and surrounded by spacious galleries. A fine organ occupies the centre of the western gallery. The altar-piece representing the Last Supper, is greatly admired; it was painted by Mr. William Jefferys, a native of this town. William Shipley, Esq. to whom the society for the encouragement of arts, manufactures and commerce owed its origin, and who resided in Maidstone, was buried in the north-western corner of this churchyard.

PAROCHIAL LIBRARY.—In the vestry-room is a large parochial library, containing many scarce books, among them is a copy of Bishop Walton's Polyglot Bible. By the will of Dr. Thos. Bray, perpetual curate of St. Botolph's, Aldgate, his valuable collection of books was directed to be sold for fifty pounds, the purchasers giving assurance to his executors that they should be placed in some corporate town in South Britain, for a parochial library. The sum was raised by subscription in this town and its vicinity, in 1735, and the books added to the public library for the parish, sometime before established. Any respectable inhabitant of Maidstone can have access to this library, but few avail themselves of the privilege.

TRINITY CHURCH.—The new church, or chapel of ease, dedicated to the Holy Trinity, which, was built a few years ago, stands between King-street, and Union-street. It is a large and commodious building, containing seats for nearly two thousand persons. It is built of stone, with a lofty steeple at the west-end, and forms a pleasing and conspicuous object in the different views of the town. The officiating minister is paid by the rents of the sittings.

DISSENTING CHAPELS.—The places of worship for Dissenters in Maidstone are very numerous, there being four for Baptists, two for Methodists, one for Independants, one for Quakers, and one for Unitarians.

PUBLIC BUILDINGS AND INSTITUTIONS, CHARITIES, &c.

COUNTY GAOL.—Under this heading I shall first notice the new county prison, which was completed

in 1818, at a cost of nearly £200,000. It is situated at the northern end of the town, and is built of the rag stone, which abounds in the neighbourhood. In strength, size, and convenience, this gaol is not excelled, or perhaps equalled by any in the kingdom. It contains between five and six hundred cells; and within the walls, which enclose about sixteen acres of land, are several large manufactories, and a tread mill, in which the convicts labour, a large hospital, a chapel, dwellings for the governor, and turnkeys, and other necessary buildings. The chaplain's house is without the wall, and corresponds in position and appearance with the porter's lodge on the opposite side. While the necessary discipline is strictly observed, the greatest attention is paid to the morals, health, and comfort of the prisoners confined here. Their average number is 350, and the annual expense of the establishment is between four and five thousand pounds. The malefactors of the county are executed at the side of the porter's lodge.

SESSIONS' HOUSE.—Large and commodious courts for the assizes, sessions, &c., have been erected in front of the prison, with all suitable offices and conveniences for the counsel, attorneys, witnesses, and other persons attending on those occasions.

THE CAVALRY BARRACKS built in 1797, and now used as a depôt for the king's four cavalry regiments serving in India, stand on the Rochester road, at a short distance from the end of Week-street. They are built chiefly of wood, and are most agreeably situated on the slope descending to the river side, forming a pleasing object in the view from the op-

posite bank. About two years ago the establishment for the improving, and maintaining uniformity in the system of riding in his majesty's cavalry, was removed hither from St. John's-wood barracks, Paddington.

THE COUNTY ASSEMBLY ROOMS, which were built a few years ago, stand immediately opposite to the barracks. The building is of brick, and contains a large ball room, a card room, and suitable apartments for dressing, refreshments, &c. Five grand balls, besides several card meetings, take place here every season.

LARGE MARKETS, with every convenience for the sale of corn and hops, meat, poultry, fish, fruit, and vegetables, with all which they are abundantly supplied, have been recently erected between the High-street, and Earl-street, with a fine building of the Ionic order in front to the High-street, a part of which is used with the Mitre tavern, and the remainder as the Kent Fire and Life office.

THE KENT FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY was established in 1802, and THE UNITED KENT LIFE ANNUITY INSTITUTION in 1824. They are under the same management. The governor is the Earl of Romney, and the list of deputy governors comprises the names of most of the nobility of Kent. These establishments offer all the advantages of similar institutions in the metropolis, on the same terms. The original price of a share, in either company was £50; but the worth is now much greater, a proof of the flourishing state of the establishments, each of which pays an annual dividend of £6 per

cent.; the Fire Office on the first of September, and the Life Office on the first of March. It can but be highly beneficial to this county to have within itself such excellent institutions.

TOWN HALL.—At the top of the Middle-row in High-street, is the town hall, a large building of stone and brick, built in the year 1764, at the joint expense of the western division of the county, and the corporation of this town. The assizes for Kent, and the sessions for the western division of the county, were, before the erection of the new courts, held here. It is used as one of the polling places for West Kent, but is now otherwise almost exclusively appropriated to the judicial, and other public business of the town, for which purposes, the corporation have recently fitted up the interior in an elegant and commodious manner. Some rooms at the top of the building were formerly used as the town prison, and called the *Brambles*; afterwards a gaol was erected at the workhouse, but the prisoners of the town are now confined in the county gaol, the corporation paying a sum to the county for their maintenance, &c.

THE GAS WORKS, which are on an extensive scale, stand in the West Borough near Newark. They were built by a Mr. Gosling, who for some time supplied the town with gas. He sold them to some respectable persons of the place, who, in 1823, were incorporated by act of parliament as The Maidstone Gas-light and Coke Company. The shares originally were sold at £50 each, but are now considerably increased in value. The liberal conduct of the

company gives general satisfaction, and it would be difficult to find a country town more brilliantly lighted than this.

THE BRIDGE, commonly called *the Great Bridge* to distinguish it from the lesser one over the Len, in Stone-street, crosses the Medway from the bottom of the High-street. It has now five, but formerly had seven arches: the building is old and unsightly, and, though some years ago it was widened and repaired, is fast falling to decay. The western end seems of greater antiquity than the rest of the work, and is probably a part of the bridge erected here by one of the archbishops of Canterbury in the 14th century. Till late in the last century this bridge was encumbered with several small houses. At its eastern end is the TOWN WATCH-HOUSE, a neat building in stucco with an iron railing before it.

There is a neat little THEATRE at the lower part of High-street, which is open every other year for forty nights. The present manager is the well known comedian, Mr. Sloman.

THE FREE GRAMMAR SCHOOL, formerly the hall of the Corpus Christi brotherhood, is situated at the bottom of Earl-street. The corporation, in the sixth year of the reign of Edward the VI. purchased the premises of the crown, and founded this school.

William Lamb, a gentleman of Henry the eighth's chapel, gave £10 per annum to this school, the children of poor men having the benefit of the gift.

Robert Gunsley, rector of Titsey in Surrey, by his will made in 1618, gave the rectory and parsonage of Flamstead in Hertfordshire, to University College,

Oxford, for the purpose of founding four scholarships, two for this school, and two for that of Rochester: natives of the county, and no others, unless of the founder's kindred, are eligible, and he directed *those of his name and kindred to be preferred to any other*. These scholars have chambers, and £15 per annum each. Also by his will he gave to the master and fellows of the same college, the appointment of the curate of Flamstead, with an annual stipend of £60, and directed that, *whensoever the said curate's place should be void, one of his own scholars should have the refusing of it before any other*.

John Davy, M. D. of this town, gave by his will in 1649, sixteen acres of land at Newchurch in Romney Marsh, then producing £18 per annum, towards the support of the master and usher of Maidstone school: and Mr. John Rice, in 1805, added the annual sum of £6, arising from the purchase of the land tax of the living of Hoo, in this county.

The master, who must be a clergyman of the church of England, is elected by the mayor and jurats. In addition to the endowments, he receives £20 yearly from the corporation, who have the government of the school. The Rev. Thomas Harrison, A. M. is the present master.

A SUBSCRIPTION ACADEMY was established in 1827 in this town on transferable shares of £20 each, of which there are one hundred; each share gives the holder the right of nominating one pupil, for whom the sum of 11 guineas, if he be the shareholder's son, or otherwise of 12 guineas per annum, is payable which includes the use of books, stationery, &c. The

management is vested in a committee, treasurer, and secretary elected from the proprietors. The head master, who is required to be a clergyman of the established church, receives £300 per annum, the second master £200, the third £100, and the fourth £80: each has a small addition made to his salary, when the number of the scholars exceeds 50. The scholars, on the above terms, receive instruction in Greek, Latin, French, also in Mathematics, and Algebra, with the usual course of English education; and the masters occasionally deliver lectures on literary and scientific subjects. Music, drawing, and dancing, are paid for extra. The school-room is near the new church, with a convenient dwelling-house adjoining for the master, which he has rent-free, with other advantages, in addition to his salary. The masters are chosen by the shareholders generally: they have the privilege of taking boarders into their houses. The present head master is the Reverend Thomas S. Green, A. M.

There are besides several highly respectable boarding schools for young gentlemen and ladies.

A LITERARY INSTITUTION was established here in 1831, on the plan of annual subscription. In the following year it was remodelled on the system of shares; and the society now consists of shareholders, in whom the property is vested, and who in addition to the price of the share, originally £5, pay an annual subscription of £1. 1s.; life members who pay £10. 10s.; and annual subscribing members who pay for the use of library and reading room, £1. 11s. 6d. or £1. 1s. for the use of the library only. An eu-

trance fee of £1. 1s. is paid by every shareholder and annual subscriber on admission with certain exceptions, and the subscriptions are paid in advance. The Earl of Romney is president, and there are vice-presidents, a committee of management, a treasurer, and a secretary. The library already contains about 2000 well selected volumes, and the reading room is well supplied with newspapers and periodical publications. From the encouragement which this institution justly receives, it is confidently to be hoped that it will soon be enabled to afford additional advantages to the important benefits it already confers. The rooms are at the house of Mr. John Smith, Stationer, Week-street, who is the librarian.

A PHILOSOPHICAL SOCIETY for the delivery of lectures on philosophical, literary, and scientific subjects, has recently been formed in this town. The terms of subscription are so moderate, that few will be excluded by pecuniary considerations from partaking of the benefits offered by this society: non-subscribers are also admissible to the lectures on terms to be fixed by the committee. Viscount Marsham is the patron of the institution. The old concert room in Pudding-lane has been selected for the lecture room.

A HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY was formed in Maidstone in the spring of the year, for the purpose of encouraging, by prizes given at periodical exhibitions, the cultivation of fruits, flowers, and vegetables. It is a subject of high gratulation to the residents in this neighbourhood, that they have an

institution, which while by the innocent emulation it excites, calculated in its direct effect to increase their comfort, and add to their luxuries, cannot fail to engender and extend a kind and social feeling. It is scarcely necessary to say that it has received the most liberal support. The funds of the establishment arise from annual subscriptions, and the sums paid by non-subscribers, for admission to the exhibitions.

A DISPENSARY for supplying the indigent sick of Maidstone and its vicinity, with medicine and medical attendance, was established in 1830. This charity was so liberally supported, that in 1833, an INFIRMARY was added for patients requiring constant attention, and the institution is now known by the name of THE WEST KENT INFIRMARY AND DISPENSARY. It has a patron, the Earl of Romney, presidents, and vice-presidents, and the following officers, two physicians, two surgeons, a treasurer, a house surgeon, a secretary, and a matron. For in-patients, a yearly subscription of three guineas makes an annual governor, and a donation of thirty guineas, a life governor, who are entitled to recommend one in-patient yearly, during their respective terms of subscription. For out-patients, a yearly subscription of one guinea makes an annual governor, and a donation of ten guineas a life governor, who are entitled to have one out-patient constantly on the books for their respective terms of subscription. This excellent establishment owed its origin mainly to the exertions of the late and

deeply lamented Dr. Smith, whose memory alike on account of his great humanity, and eminent skill in his profession, will long be gratefully cherished in the neighbourhood. The number of patients admitted in the year 1833, was 1188, and since the first opening of the dispensary, in 1830, to the end of 1833, no less than 4024. The infirmary, a neat brick building, stands on the Queen Anne-road, not far distant from the new church. The cost of its erection, including the purchase of the land and other incidental expences, exceeded £1700. During the last year constant accommodation was provided for six in-patients, but the number has since been increased to twelve. The building is calculated for the reception of twenty-four.

Many charitable persons have built ALMS-HOUSES for the poor in this town. Sir John Banks, by his will, in 1697, directed six alms-houses to be built, which he endowed with the annual sum of £60, for six poor aged men and women. In 1748 Edward Hunter, Esq. gave six houses, with an annuity of £8 attached to each, for three men and three women. John Brenchley, Esq. in 1789, built four, for old men and women, and endowed them with annuities of £12 each. And three were given by Mrs. Duke, for gentlewomen of reduced circumstances.

A LARGE WORKHOUSE was built for the poor of this parish in 1720, by Thomas Bliss, Esq., who often represented this town in parliament. He expended £700 in this charitable work. It is a spacious brick building, standing in Knightrider-street near All Saints' Church, and contains a suitable dwelling

for the keeper. Since the erection of the original building, great additions have been made to it by the parish.

There are several CHARITY SCHOOLS in Maidstone for the education of the poorer class, namely, the *Blue-coat* for clothing and educating 53 boys, and 43 girls, which was established in 1711 by the Rev. Dr. Woodward, and has for its support a certain yearly income of nearly £140 in addition to the legacies, donations, and subscriptions; a school founded by Sir Charles Booth in 1795, and endowed by him with the interest of £2,000, which has now accumulated to £3,000, in which 35 boys and 35 girls receive instruction; the *Green-coat*, for clothing and educating 12 boys, and the same number of girls, and the *Brown-coat* for clothing and educating 24 boys, and the same number of girls which are chiefly maintained by dissenters; large schools for boys and girls on the *National*, and *British* systems, are also supported here by legacies, donations, and annual contributions, besides the several Sunday schools, maintained by subscriptions, in which upwards of 2000 children receive instruction.

Besides those already mentioned, there are several other charitable institutions maintained by the voluntary contributions of the inhabitants of the town and neighbourhood, for the relief of the sufferings of the poor, among these are the societies for supplying the indigent with food, clothing, and fuel in winter, and a lying-in charity. There are also several benefit societies, and a well managed savings' bank.

HISTORICAL MATTERS CONNECTED WITH
MAIDSTONE.

In 1381, Wat Tyler broke open the gaol here, and liberated John Ball, a priest and seditious preacher, together with the other prisoners then confined there. This Ball, (more commonly known by the name of *Jack Straw*, which he took from the place of his birth, Pepingstraw in the parish of Offham, near this town;)* seems to have been a man of great talent; he became the chief coadjutor of Tyler, in the rebellion which the latter had then raised against Richard the II., in opposition to the poll tax. Tyler made him *chaplain* to the rebel army, and promised him the archbishoprick of Canterbury. After the death of his patron, and the dispersion of the insurgents, Ball was taken, and hanged at St. Alban's.†

I have already said the inhabitants of Maidstone forfeited the charter granted to them by Edward the VI., on account of their participation in the Kentish rebellion, raised by Sir Thomas Wiat against Mary. It was here, on the 27th of January, 1554, that Sir Thomas first raised his standard, and made a public declaration of his intentions,§ stating that his sole design in taking up arms, was to preserve the liberty of the nation, and to keep it from the yoke of strangers. According to tradition, this proclamation, was made at the *Bear Ringle*, the spot

* See Philipott.

† See Newton's Hist. and the authority cited.

§ See Burnet's Hist. of the Reformation and Rapin's Hist. of England.

now occupied by the weigh-bridge, and one of the conduits, just below the Middle-row in the High-street. Sir Thomas Wiat then possessed the Mote, and other considerable property in Maidstone, and he was supported by the Isleys, Maplesdens, and other persons of wealth and influence in this town.* He marched from Maidstone to Rochester, where he was joined by a party of the queen's troops which had been sent to oppose him, and thence, after rejecting an offer of pardon made by the queen, to London, at the head of about 4000 men, but on arriving at the metropolis, it seems that he did not meet the support he had calculated upon, and was deserted by some of his followers; the remainder being surrounded by the queen's forces, Sir Thomas finding hopes of escape vain, surrendered himself prisoner to Sir Maurice Berkeley, and was committed to the Tower; soon afterwards he was tried and condemned, and after a respite of some weeks beheaded. His body was quartered, and his head exhibited on a pole, whence it was stolen by some of his friends.† Sir Henry Isley, his brother Thomas, and Walter Mantell, Wiat's principal coadjutors, are said to have been executed in Maidstone, on the spot where the design was first publicly proclaimed.‡

The inhabitants of this place appear to have distinguished themselves by their firm attachment to

* See Newton's Hist. of Maidstone, and the authorities there mentioned.

† See Rapin and Hume.

‡ See Newton's Hist. of Maidstone and the authorities cited.

the protestant cause. On the accession of Mary, they were among the first, and most earnest, in petitioning, and protesting against any alteration in the doctrine and service of the church, as settled by Edward the VI. This rendered them particularly obnoxious to Mary, and, coupled with the part they took in Wiat's rebellion, (which partially arose from religious motives,) was the cause of their being left in a disfranchised state, during the remainder of her reign. Many persons of this place were subjected to severe persecution, and some even suffered martyrdom on account of their faith. In 1554, seven persons of this town and neighbourhood were burned in the meadow, near the grammar school, and several suffered in other places. For a more particular account of these victims to bigotry, I refer my reader to Mr. Fox's book.

Kent was one of the counties, which, in 1648, formed an association to protect the king from the oppression of the parliament. It was intended to commence proceedings by petition, and an address was accordingly prepared, but an order was promulgated by the parliament forbidding the people to sign or present it. On this the Kentish men at once flew to arms, and an army of nearly 6000 foot, and 1000 horse, was quickly raised, to which Edward Hales Esq. was appointed general, and Sir Thomas Peyton, lieutenant-general. The Earl of Norwich afterwards took the command of this force, and marched up to Blackheath to effect a junction with the King's friends in and about London, but he was forced to retire before Fairfax, who had been promptly

ordered by the Parliament to suppress this rising, and accordingly had marched into Kent with about 10,000 men. The other counties who had formed the league, either from fear, or inability to render aid, left the Kentish men unsuccoured, and Fairfax, with whom they endeavoured to make terms, refused to treat with them. Several skirmishes occurred between detachments of the two armies, in which the royalists, though behaving with great gallantry, were defeated. The little army then divided, one part under the Earl of Norwich occupying Rochester, and the remainder taking their quarters in this town. Fairfax then, having mustered his forces at Malling, on the second of June marched to attack Maidstone. Crossing the river at East Farleigh, he fell on the town before its inhabitants were aware of his approach. The royalist force consisted of about 1000 horse and foot commanded by Sir Thomas Mayney, and 800 by Sir William Brockman. Some slight defences had been thrown up near the place now occupied by the workhouse, but these were speedily forced, and about seven o'clock in the evening the storming of the town itself began. Such was the determined bravery of its defenders, notwithstanding the vast numerical superiority of the parliamentary force, that the battle lasted till almost midnight, when those left of the royalists, worn out with fatigue, threw themselves into the church, and made the best terms they could with their opponents. Lord Clarendon speaks highly of the courage of the royalists in this affair, the unfortunate issue of which however discouraged them from making any further

effort in this county in favour of their unfortunate sovereign.*

Maidstone was within the range of the terrible storm, which, on the 19th of August, 1763, desolated a large part of Kent and Sussex. It entered this county at Tonbridge Wells, and passed completely across it, in a north easterly direction, to Sheerness. Such was the tremendous fury of this tempest, which combined the powers of wind, and hail, and thunder and lightning, in their most awful strength, that the tract over which it passed, averaging about three miles in breadth, was utterly devastated. All the fruit, corn and other produce, remaining on the land, were entirely destroyed: the trees were stripped of their leaves, and their limbs broken. Many houses and buildings were blown down, and all that stood exposed to its force, more or less damaged. This town suffered especially from its violence; on the northern side of the High-street, not only the glass, but the very frames of the windows were broken by the hail, the accounts given of the size of which in this neighbourhood, seem almost incredible: one piece is stated to have been found at Barming measuring nine inches in circumference, and some, picked up ten days after the storm, are said to have exceeded four inches in girth, resembling rather fragments of ice than ordinary hail. A public subscription was promptly raised for the relief of the sufferers from this

* See Clarendon's Hist. of the Rebellion;—Newton's Hist. of Maidstone;—and Matthew Carter's Account of the expedition printed in 1648, immediately after the defeat.

direful visitation, by which their distress was greatly mitigated.*

On the 7th of August, 1765, the prisoners broke out of the county-gaol, then in King-street, two Italians named Pingano, and Benevenuto, then under sentence of death, having seized the arms, and murdered the keeper, John Stevens, and John Fletcher. The prisoners, fifteen in number, proceeded to Toville, and thence to Plaxtol, where, with military assistance, they were secured, the two Italians however were slain; the others were shortly afterwards tried under a special commission, and executed.†

On the 1st of June, 1798 O'Coigley, O'Conner, and others, were tried here for high treason. The charge against them was that of being in correspondence with the French Republic for the purpose of encouraging and assisting the projected invasion of these realms by the French. O'Coigley was found guilty, and on the 7th was executed as a traitor at Penenden-heath.

On the 4th of November, 1778, George the III. visited Maidstone, on the occasion of his inspecting the camp at Coxheath; and again on the 1st of Aug. 1799, it was honoured by his presence, with that of his queen and of several of the royal family, when the Kentish volunteers were reviewed in the Mote park.

* See Hasted's Hist. of Kent; Maidstone.

† See the entries in the parish register of the burials of John Stevens and John Fletcher, in August, 1765.

PERSONS OF NOTE BORN IN, OR OTHERWISE
CONNECTED WITH THE TOWN.

There appears to have been formerly a family of some importance, which took its surname from this place. Ralph de Maydenstane died bishop of Hereford in 1244. In the 4th year of the reign of Edward the IV., Walter de Maydenstane obtained the king's licence to embattle his mansion in the town of Maydenstane: he was made bishop of Worcester in 1313, and died in 1317. Ralph de Maydenstane, and Richard de Maydenstane, were among the celebrated writers of the middle of the 14th century. In 1367, William de Maydenstane was abbot, and Walter de Maydenstane one of the monks of Faversham abbey. Thomas de Maydestane was a canon of Leeds priory in 1397. Weever speaks of a monument in Ulcomb church with this inscription, "*Here lyeth William de Maydenstone Esq., who died April 8th, 1429.*" In Caxton's life, mention is made of Clement de Maydestane, a priest, who copied the Ordinal by way of penance.*

Sir John Mansell, who was rector of this parish and died in 1264, appears to have been an important personage in his time, and a great favorite of his sovereign, Henry the III. His ecclesiastical revenues are stated to have been nearly 4000 marks, so numerous and rich were the benefices he enjoyed. He was special counsellor to the king, castellan of the tower of London, chief justice of England, a member of the privy council, lord keeper of the great

* See Philipott, Newton, and others.

seal, and ambassador to the courts of France and of Spain. He also distinguished himself in arms, which in those days were frequently assumed by churchmen of high degree. When Alexander king of Scotland visited Henry the III. in 1256, Mansell, who was the private chaplain to Henry, entertained the two monarchs and their queens, with their respective retinues in the most sumptuous style at his own house. Yet notwithstanding all his wealth and honours he appears to have died abroad in poverty and obscurity.*

Wat Tyler, the rebel against Richard II. is supposed by some to have been an inhabitant of Maidstone,† though the general opinion is that he was of Dartford.

The noble family of the Widviles, or Woodvilles, possessed the Mote in this parish from the time of Edward the III. to that of Richard the III. John de Woodville, who was sheriff and castellan of Northampton, resided at the Mote in the reign of Richard the II. and is said by Weever to have been buried in Maidstone church, on the north side of the chancel, where, some years back, there were the remains of an old tomb supposed to be his, but only a few letters of the inscription were legible even when Newton wrote his history of the town; these however include a part of the date, - - DECEMBER, - - ANNO MILLENO, C QUATER, X - - - He was succeeded by his son Richard, afterwards Earl Rivers, who

* See Newton and Hasted.

† See Kilburne's Survey of Kent,—Maidstone.

was a firm adherent to his unfortunate sovereign Henry the VI. until Edward the IV. obtained the crown, when he became as zealous a partizan of the house of York. On his being beheaded by the insurgents in favour of Henry, his son Anthony succeeded to his honours and estates. Anthony seems to have stood even higher than his father in the favour and confidence of Edward. On the death of that monarch, he, as the guardian of the young Prince of Wales, his nephew, became obnoxious to the Duke of Gloucester, who, with the assistance of his confederate the Duke of Buckingham, arrested him while attending his nephew on his return from Wales, and shortly after caused him to be executed as a traitor at Pontefract Castle. His brother Richard succeeded to the title, but the usurper, Richard the III. seized the estates, including those in Maidstone, and granted them to Sir Robert Brackenbury. On the accession of Henry the VII. they were restored to the Earl. Some farther notice of these unfortunate noblemen will be found in the third excursion, in the account given of the Mote, with which their history is more immediately connected.

Edward Lee, afterwards Lord Archbishop of York, was born in this town in the year 1482. His father had a mansion in Earl-street, which probably stood on the eastern, or upper side of Havock-lane; a few years ago the arms of the Lee family were, amongst others, to be seen in painted glass in one of the windows of the portion of an old mansion which still occupies the spot.

Richard Master, B. D. the rector of Aldington, Kent, and an eminent philosopher, who was executed

at Tyburn, in 1534, for being concerned in the imposture of Elizabeth Barton, the holy maid of Kent, was a native of Maidstone.

The Knights Wiats of Allington were all so intimately connected with this town, though not natives, that I cannot refrain from introducing their illustrious names in this place. Sir Henry Wiat, the favorite, and privy counsellor of Henry the VII. and Henry the VIII. purchased the Mote in this parish, in the reign of Henry the VII. His son, Sir Thomas, the poet, succeeded to his father's estates and honours; he had great additions made to his property in this neighbourhood, by grants from Henry the VIII. among which was that of the palace and manor of Maidstone. Sir Thomas Wiat, the younger, received some further grants from Edward the VI. including the rectory of this parish: he, as has been before stated, was beheaded, and his estates were confiscated to the crown, for rebellion against Mary. Some farther notice of these gentlemen will be found in the first of the excursions following this account of the town.

John Jenkins, one of the most celebrated musical composers who flourished in the reigns of Charles the I. and Charles II. was born in this town in 1592. He was most famous for his fantasias, which were highly admired, both in England and on the continent. Jenkins, though an excellent performer on the viol, contributed much by his compositions, to the introduction of the violin in its place. He was the first English composer of trios for two violins and a bass. He appears to have died about the year 1660.

Andrew Broughton, an attorney, who was one of the two clerks to the high court of justice, and as such read the charge of impeachment, and also the sentence, against Charles the I. was a resident in, if not a native of Maidstone. He built a good house in Earl-street, (next below the Star Inn yard,) in which he resided till the restoration of Charles the II. The following curious anecdote connected with this man, is preserved by Newton in his History of Maidstone. Broughton, on his return to Maidstone after the king's execution, attended public worship as usual, when the minister, Wilson, in his sermon spoke openly and vehemently against the king's murder: "David's heart," he said, "smote him when he only cut off the skirt of Saul's garment, but men dare now-a-days to cut off the head of a king without remorse!" on this Broughton precipitately left the church, and Wilson then added, "when the word of God comes home to a man, it makes him fly for it!" I am induced to give this anecdote at length for the fine example of forcible eloquence conjoined with high moral courage which it affords. After this Broughton never attended the church again, but procured an independent minister, who officiated in the free school. The commons rewarded Broughton's services by making him clerk, and afterwards coroner of the upper bench. He attended the proclamation of Charles the II. here, but immediately after the ceremony mounted his horse, which was in waiting, and quitted the town for ever. It appears that he retired, with others who had been concerned in the death of Charles, to Vevay, on the

Lake of Geneva, in Switzerland, where he died in 1687, aged 84. His epitaph states that he was twice mayor of Maidstone.

Thomas Wilson A. M., the minister named in the preceding notice of Broughton, was curate of Maidstone from 1643 until the time of his death in 1651. He had previously been rector of Otham, and while in that parish had been subjected to most severe persecution for non-conformity. He appears to have been a very popular, zealous and pious preacher, and one of the most determined opponents of Archbishop Laud, on whose trial Wilson was one of the witnesses against him. An account of his life was published in 1672, by his friend George Swinnock, A. M. a native of this town, to which I refer my readers for any farther information they may require. *

Thomas Trapham, surgeon to General Fairfax, and afterwards to Cromwell, was the son of Thomas Trapham of this town. He embalmed the body of Charles the I. and after sewing on the head, observed that *he had sewed on the head of a goose*. He appears to have been a violent republican, and a man of some consequence in his party. He died in 1683.

The name of Thomas Read, of Maidstone, gentleman, appears among those of the witnesses against Charles the I.

The Reverend William Newton author of *The History and Antiquities of Maidstone*, published in 1741, was born in this town. He died in 1744.

* This little work has been lately re-published by Mr. J. Brown, the printer of this book.

William Shipley, to whom the society for encouraging arts, manufactures, and commerce, established in 1754, owed its origin, resided in Maidstone. The society presented him with a gold medal having on one side an emblematical device and on the other the following inscription: "To William Shipley whose public spirit gave rise to this society."* Mr. Shipley was also eminent for his researches in natural philosophy. Previously to his residence in this town, he had been a painter in London, where he formed a school for the teaching of drawing, which is allowed to have conduced in a great degree to the establishment of the Royal Academy, many of the first and eminent masters of which had been students in Mr. Shipley's school. He died in 1803, at the age of 89 years, and was buried near the north-western corner of the parish church.

William Woolett, the prince of engravers, was born in Maidstone in the year 1735. The house in which he was born is still standing in King-street, being the house on the eastern side of the passage leading to Mrs. Duke's alms-houses. It is said that he was a waiting boy at the Turk's-head public-house, in the Rose-yard, High-street, and that he made his first essay in the art in which he afterwards excelled all his predecessors, and has not since been equalled, by scratching a head on one of the pewter pots of the house, and that the boldness of the drawing attracting attention, led to his being apprenticed to an en-

* An engraving was made of this medal; a copy is in the writer's possession, which was presented to his father by Mr. Shipley.

graver. Woolett was engraver to George the III. His works are very numerous, and now sell at very high prices. Those generally considered his best are, the death of General Wolfe, after West; the Fishery, after Wright; and Niobe after Wilson; of which proof impressions are valued at from £10 to £20. Woolett died in 1785, in the 50th year of his age, and was buried in St. Pancras' church-yard. There is a fine cenotaph, by Banks, erected to his memory in the cloisters of Westminster abbey.

William Jefferys, whom I have before noticed as the painter of the altar-piece in the parish church, was a native of Maidstone. He was in business in town as a general painter, and consequently had but little time or opportunity to cultivate his talent for the more refined pursuits of the art. He however acquired some celebrity by his fruit and flower pieces, which were exhibited in the rooms of the Royal Academy. He died in 1805.

James Jefferys, the son of William, was also born here: he greatly excelled his father in talent as a painter. He was first placed under the celebrated Woolett, but afterwards studied in the Royal Academy, where, in 1773, being then about twenty-three years of age, he obtained the annual gold medal for the best historical picture. In 1775 he was sent to Rome, and remained abroad four years at the cost of the establishment. On his return he settled in Meard-street, Soho. He painted the scene before Gibraltar, representing the destruction of the floating batteries, on the 16th of September, 1782 and this is considered his master-piece: it

was engraved by Woolett and Emes. James Jefferys was particularly celebrated for his masterly pen-drawings in the style of Mortimer, under whom it is supposed he studied for a short time while in London.* His designs display great originality and boldness, and fully justify the opinion of his contemporaries that he would arrive at the highest eminence in his profession. This anticipation was unfortunately disappointed by his early death. He died in London, of a rapid consumption, on the 31st of January, 1784, aged about 34 years.

George Horne, who was made bishop of Norwich in 1790, was educated at the free grammar school of this town, where he obtained a scholarship at University college Oxford. He was esteemed one of the best Hebrew scholars of his time. I shall have occasion to speak again of this distinguished prelate in the 4th of the following excursions.

William Alexander F.S.A. was born in this place about the year 1766. He studied in the Royal Academy, and was appointed draughtsman to Lord Macartney's embassy to China in 1792, and 1805 published *The Costume of China*, a work consisting of forty-eight highly finished and coloured etchings,

* Mr. J. N. Hughes late of Maidstone, but now residing at Winchester, and Mr. S. Lamprey of this town, possess the principal pen-drawings of this artist: among those in the hands of the latter are, *Pride drawn by the Passions*, an allegorical design taken from the 4th canto of Spenser's *Fairie Queene*, which Jefferys himself esteemed his *chef d'œuvre* in this style, and *The Deluge*, a grand drawing, which many connoisseurs consider of equal merit with the first mentioned work.

illustrative of the dress, architecture, and habits of the inhabitants of that country, with a brief descriptive account of each plate. He also engraved and published a print representing the royal review of the Kentish volunteers in the Mote park, on the 1st of Aug. 1799, from a drawing made by himself on the occasion. He was keeper of the prints and medals in the British museum; and under his superintendence the publication of engravings from the sculptures in that institution was commenced, which work is not yet completed. He died at Maidstone in 1816.

John Pond, F. R. S. the present astronomer royal, was educated at Maidstone grammar school. He was elected to the office in 1811, on the death of Dr. Maskelyne.

TRADE, MANUFACTURES, &c.

The prosperity and increase of the town of Maidstone, is unquestionably in a great degree owing to the facility of conveyance afforded by the Medway, which is navigable up to this town by vessels of nearly 100 tons burthen. There are between 50 and 60 vessels, of from 20 to 90 tons burthen, belonging to this town alone, which are employed in conveying hops, corn, fruit, paper, timber, stone, and other produce of this neighbourhood to Rochester, Chatham, and London, whence they return freighted with coals, grocery, and other articles of merchandize, for the supply of Maidstone, and its surrounding villages. Many of these, by passing

through the Thames and Medway junction canal, make the passage regularly in less than 30 hours.

There was formerly a considerable trade carried on in this town in linen-thread, the manufacture of which was introduced here by the Walloons, who under the protection of Elizabeth, fled into this country, when driven from their native land by the persecution of the Duke D'Alva. Though the manufacture is still carried on, it has long since declined into comparative insignificance.

In the last century there were several fulling mills in the vicinity of the town, there being a fine vein of the earth in the parish of Boxley: the business is now removed from this neighbourhood.

Some years ago there was a large distillery in Maidstone, in which a spirit was made that obtained great repute from the near resemblance of its flavour to that of Hollands. This business has not been carried on here for many years, and the distillery is now used as a corn mill.

The principal manufacture of Maidstone and its vicinity at the present day is that of paper. The mills in this and the adjoining parishes are very numerous; the two largest are those of Messrs Hollingworth, and Messrs Balston and Co. The Maidstone papers have long been in high repute in the foreign as well as British markets.

At Toville, about a mile from the town, there is a large mill for making linseed oil and oil cake: there are besides here large manufactories for damask linen, and coarser cloths, blankets, rope, and thread:

these, with the paper mills, afford employment to many hundred of the inhabitants of this town.

A large trade is also carried on with the metropolis in timber, corn, hops, and fruit, the produce of the surrounding district, as also in the hard Kentish rag-stone dug in the neighbourhood.

Markets are held in this town on the second Tuesday in every month for cattle; on every Thursday for corn and hops; on Thursdays and Saturdays for meat and poultry; and on every day for fish, fruit, and vegetables: with all these commodities this place is plentifully and cheaply supplied. The butchers' shops here, both by the excellence of the meat, and their neatness, never fail to excite the admiration of visitors. The right of holding a free market weekly on Thursday for corn, &c. was first granted by Henry III. in his 45th year to Archbishop Boniface for this his manor. The mayor is *ex officio* clerk of the market. The market for cattle was granted to the corporation by George the II. in 1751.

Four fairs are held in Maidstone annually; on the 13th of February, 12th of May, and 20th of June, for horses, cattle, pedlary &c; and on the 17th of October for hops: a court of *pie-poudre* is held for their regulation.

Several Coaches leave Maidstone for London daily, between the hours of 5 in the morning and 4 in the afternoon, many of which return the same day; the journey is performed in about 3 hours and a half. The greatest facility of communication with the principal places in this county, as also with Hastings and

Brighton in Sussex, is afforded by coaches, vans, and other vehicles running regularly to and from this town.

Two weekly Newspapers are published here on Tuesday morning: the Maidstone Journal, by Mr. J. V. Hall; and the Maidstone Gazette by Mr. R. J. Cutbush; both of which are extensively circulated in this and the surrounding counties.

I shall here give a list shewing the distance of Maidstone, as commonly computed, from the principal towns in Kent. As I have already said, it lies nearly in the middle of the county, being about 34 miles from London, and 42 from Dover. It is about 27 miles from Canterbury—42 from Ramsgate, Margate or Deal—32 from Sandgate—19 from Ashford—9 from Lenham—32 from Romney—13 from Goudhurst—14 from Cranbrook—18 from Tenterden—14 from Tunbridge town, and 19 from the Wells—6 from Town Malling—18 from Sevenoaks—22 from Westerham—11 from Wrotham—31 from Greenwich or Woolwich—23 from Dartford—16 from Gravesend—8 from Rochester, or Chatham—11 from Sittingbourne—20 from Sheerness—and 18 from Faversham.

OF THE PARISH, HUNDRED, AND MANORS.

The preceding pages have been exclusively devoted to the *town* of Maidstone, I shall now add some general information respecting the *parish, and hundred,*

which, as the objects of interest not lying in the very streets are noticed in the walks following, may be given in a few words.

The parish of Maidstone comprises 4307 acres, including an outlying piece near Stile Bridge, between Linton and Marden, which is called Loddington, and contains 540 acres.

The town and parish of Maidstone form a separate jurisdiction under the corporation. The hundred of Maidstone, in which they are locally situated, and were formerly comprised, includes the parishes of Boxley, Debting, Loose, Linton, East Farleigh, and East and West Barming, with parts of those of Bersted Hunton, Marden, and Staplehurst. The manor of Maidstone is co-extensive with the hundred. A court-leet and a court-baron are held yearly for it.

The parish contains several manors, or estates which were formerly of manorial repute. The Mote, now the seat of the Earl Romney, which was also called the manor of Shofford from its having belonged to a family of that name. Goulds, which lies near, and has generally been attached to the Mote estate. Jordans-hall, which stood in Stone-street, between the turning to Romney Place, and the Town-arms public house. Shales court, at the southern or upper end of Stone-street, which at different times belonged to the Pimpes, the Wiats, and the Wallers of Groombridge : there is still a portion of the manor house standing on the southern side of the lane leading to Toville. The manor of East-lane, which claims over twenty-five tenements in East-lane, and

the Middle-row, in High-street. Chillingston near St. Faith's-green; the extensive remains of the manor house of which present a fine specimen of the ornamented brick style, prevalent in the latter part of the 16th century. This estate was forfeited to the crown in the 1st of Mary, its owner, George Maplesden, being concerned in Wiat's rebellion. Buckland, which lies on the western side of the Medway, opposite to the town. Halfway Oke, or Half Yoke, is a reputed manor in this parish, near to East Farleigh bridge. This estate was forfeited to the crown on the attainment of its owner, Sir Henry Isley, for treason against Queen Mary, in joining Sir Thomas Wiat's rebellion. Loddington, an isolated portion of Maidstone parish near Linton, is also a manor, it had formerly a chapel, being above 4 miles from the town of Maidstone. There was formerly a mansion of consequence in this town called Bigons or Digons, the residence of the Maplesden family: it stood in Knight-riding-street, on the site now occupied by the house of Mrs. Day.

The soil of this parish, which is generally a rich loam on the Kentish rag-stone, is remarkably fertile, and especially adapted for the growth of hops, fruit, and filberts, large plantations of which surround the town on every side. In addition the rag-stone, fine sand, gravel, and brick earth, are dug within the bounds of this parish, and an inexhaustible supply of chalk is furnished by the neighbouring hills.

The town lies in the eastern part of the parish: the beautiful valley from which it arises is most luxuriantly wooded, and cultivated almost to excess, and watered

by the Len, and many other smaller streams in their course to join the Medway which winds through its centre, while it is bounded and protected on the north-east by the softly swelling and picturesque chain of hills which traverses this county : nor is this lovely vale more to be celebrated for the richness of its scenery, than for its general healthiness, the air being remarkably dry, pure and mild.

Having now concluded my account of Maidstone, I proceed to introduce my reader, in the following excursions, to its beautiful and romantic environs.

THE COAST



H. L. Mearns, 1902

ENVIRONS OF MAIDSTONE.

NORTHERN EXCURSION.

No. 1.

[The following descriptive account of the neighbourhood of Maidstone, is written in a more familiar style than that generally used in topographical publications. The different objects of interest within the average distance of about four miles of the town, are supposed to have been visited by the writer and a friend in eight excursions. These divisions will be found marked out in dotted lines in the map at the commencement of the book.]

For this walk we left the town by Week-street, and turning down through the barracks to that delightful walk, the towing path, followed the course of the river to the Gibraltar Inn. My companion being a stranger to this part of Kent, was continually breaking forth into exclamations of delight at the varied and rich scenery around, which was then considerably enlivened by the number of pleasure boats gliding along the Medway.

We crossed the river to ALLINGTON CASTLE, resolved to explore every accessible part of that venerable ruin. Here Sir Thomas Wiat, the elder, "the delight of the muses and mankind"* drew his first breath; here he dwelt in youth and manhood blessing all around, and here attuned his lyre to those strains,

* He is thus styled by Anthony Wood, the celebrated biographer and historian, and Leland calls him 'Incomparabilis.'

which feeling, purity, and elegance so eminently adorn. By such associations of thought was this spot hallowed in our eyes, and I trust I shall be pardoned for here introducing one of his sonnets, in which "The lover laments the death of his love : " in the hope that the reader may be induced by this specimen, to seek a further acquaintance with the works of one who may with justice be styled "the glory of his day"*

The pillar perish'd is whereto I leant,
 The strongest stay of mine unquiet mind ;
 The like of it no man again can find,
 From east to west still seeking through he went,
 To mine unhap. For hap away hath rent
 Of all my joy the very bark and rind :
 And I, alas, by chance am thus assign'd
 Daily to mourn, till death do it relent.
 For since that thus it is by destiny,
 What can I more but have a woful heart ;
 My pen in plaint, my voice in careful cry.
 My mind in woe, my body full of smart ;
 And I myself, myself always to hate,
 Till dreadful death do ease my doleful state.

I shall now give a brief historical and descriptive account of the castle. The moat, of which the greater part is still open, and the whole to be easily traced, encloses an area of about an acre and a half ; but the buildings, with the inner court yard, do not occupy much more than half of that space. It appears that there was a castle or fort here in the time of the Saxons. Allington formed part of the possessions of Odo,

* The poems of Sir Thomas Wiat were republished by Pickering in the Aldine Edition of the British Poets, of which they form one volume.

Bishop of Baieux and half brother of William the conqueror, who, on the bishop's disgrace, granted it to Earl Warren, by whom the castle was rebuilt. He conveyed it to Lord Fitz Hugh, whose daughter married Sir Giles Allington, to whom this property passed and whose name it has since borne. Late in the reign of Henry the III. it was transferred from this family to Sir Stephen de Penchester, who again built the castle under a licence granted by Edward the I. The greater part of the outer works now remaining were most probably erected by him : of these, Solomon's tower, which stands at the southern corner, is most worthy of notice. Its diameter within is nearly twenty feet ; the holes for the floor-beams show that it had at least four stories ; and its remains are above forty feet in height. From the ornamental work left, it appears to have contained some of the state apartments ; the stone stair, by which they were approached, now only reaches the line of the first floor.

The inner buildings are a part of the "faire stone house" built by Sir Thomas Wiat, before mentioned, and are now divided into two farm houses ; to one of which, the Earl of Romney, the owner of the estate, has lately added two fine rooms by repairing the old turret which overlooks the river. It is to be regretted that at the time these repairs were made, a fine room, which formed the upper story of the range of buildings dividing the courts of the castle was destroyed, as from what we could learn it was in all probability the banquetting room of Sir Thomas Wiat, the elder : this room had three windows of three

lights each, towards the principal court, and probably the same number on the other side, which many years ago was destroyed by fire : the ceiling was ornamented with oak mouldings, arranged in octagonal forms on the white stucco. The wide-arched fire-place on the north-eastern side of the court denotes that there "once stood the festive hall." In crossing the yard we observed a strong iron ring attached to a large stone, which was probably used in that favorite, though barbarous sport of our ancestors, bull-baiting. The grand entrance is towards the north-west, and is still almost perfect : this appears to be the most ancient portion of the ruin : the arch is Norman and ribbed with the Caen stone, which was much in use in fortified buildings erected by the Norman nobility soon after the conquest ; it may therefore be presumed that this is a part of the castle built by Earl Warren, soon after the grant made to him by the Conqueror : it was defended by a portcullis and two gates.

I cannot leave this subject without noticing and correcting the vulgar and strange confusion made with regard to the Wiat family by many persons in this neighbourhood, who jumble the three knights of that name, (who held this castle and manor,) into one person, Sir *a* Thomas Wiat, who, they say, was a great poet, fed by a cat when confined in *Solomon's* tower, and beheaded for rebellion against Queen Mary. Now, Sir Thomas Wiat, who headed the Kentish rebels against Mary, and was beheaded for so doing, was the son of Sir Thomas the poet, and the favorite of Henry VIII. whose father, Sir Henry, purchased

this estate early in Henry the 7th's reign, and he it was, who, when imprisoned in the tower of London by Richard the III., was preserved by a cat, which supplied him daily with food.

Allington, after the forfeiture by Sir Thomas Wiat, the younger, remained in the possession of the crown till Elizabeth granted it to the Astley family, from which it passed by sale to one of the ancestors of the Earl of Romney, its present owner.

In 'The Wizard,' a poem published in the 2d volume of the *Censura Literaria*, this castle is noticed in the following beautiful passage :

Then let me fly to Medway's stream,
Where flowing Wiat used to dream
His moral fancies ! Ivied towers,
'Neath which the silver Naiad pours
Her murmuring waves through verdant meads,
Where the rich herd luxuriant feeds :
How often in your still recesses
I've seen the Muse with careless tresses
Scatter her flowers as Wiat bade,
In spring's enamell'd colours clad.
Lov'd castle ! art thou still array'd
In fame, or do thine honours fade ?
They fade ! Lo from the tottering walls,
Down in huge heaps the fragment falls ;
And lonely are thy courts, and still
The voice that whisper'd to the rill :
Thy very name is sunk ! how few
Know it once shone in glory's hue !

The water being low, we recrossed the stream at the lock, and proceeded through "a vale as fair as Eden's garden in its prime," to AYLESFORD. The bridge at this place has a fine central arch of a span

of between fifty and sixty feet, which was built about eight years ago. In the year 1016, Edmund Ironside, having defeated the Danes at Otford, pursued them to Aylesford, where, at a place called Fernham, he completely routed them.

In the CHURCH here are interred many distinguished persons of the Cosington, Culpeper, and Banks families, to some of whom it contains fine and curious monuments. Sir Paul Rycaut the celebrated traveller, who was ambassador to Constantinople, and wrote a history of the Turks, which Dr. Johnson speaks of in terms of the highest commendation, and several other works, lies buried in the south chancel, where there is a monument to his memory. Some pieces of armour and tabards hang in the north chancel, but the latter are so blackened and decayed that the bearings are not distinguishable; they probably belonged to some of the Banks family, near to whose monuments they are placed. In the churchyard near the western end of the church is the grave of John Summerfield, Esq., an artist, well known in this neighbourhood by his engraving of *Rubens and his wife*, from a picture by that master; Mr. Summerfield was a pupil of the celebrated Bartolozzi.

Near the south-eastern end of the village street stands the HOSPITAL OF THE HOLY TRINITY, being an alms-house for six poor persons and a warden, erected and endowed in compliance with the will of John Sedley made in 1605. For many years no appointment has been made to these alms-houses, but in consequence of the investigation recently made by the commissioners appointed to enquire into the state

of public charities, there is ground to hope that this building will soon again be applied to the purposes for which it was designed by its benevolent founder. There is a curious piece of carved work over the gateway in the garden wall, at the back of the Hospital.

We then proceeded to the FRIARS, now a mansion belonging to the Earl of Aylesford, but formerly a Priory for Carmelities, an order introduced into this kingdom in the year 1240, by Richard Lord Grey of Codnor, who founded this their first Monastery in England. In the year 1245, a grand chapter of the houses of this order was held here, when John Stock, a hermit who dwelt in a hollow tree, was chosen superior general of the societies.

Sir Charles Sedley, the poet and dramatist, who graced the Court of Charles II. was born in this house. The greater part of the old building is still in good condition; the gate house is quite entire. The entrance hall of the present house was the cloister of the Priory, within which the principal friars were buried; among these was Richard de Maydenstane, whom I have noticed in the preceding account of the town as an author of celebrity; he died here in 1396.

The withdrawing room, in the southern wing, was the chapel; its length is about forty-five feet. One of the smaller apartments is hung with curious tapestry, representing portions of the history of the Knight of La Mancha. The present Earl does not reside here.

From this "relic of eld," we bent our way towards the hills, over the spot where the Saxons, under Hengist and Horsa, A. D. 455, about five years after

their first landing, were routed by the British king Vortimer, after a long and bloody battle, in which Horsa, and Catigern, Vortimer's brother, fighting hand to hand, slew each other. Tradition says, that Horsa was buried at a place near Chatham, now called Horsted from that circumstance, and that Catigern was interred where he fell. The spot, according to the general opinion, is marked by a monument named KIT'S COTY HOUSE, composed of four immense stones, which many, however, suppose to have been a druidical altar.

I shall not here intrude a question upon my reader which at best can only have a speculative answer, our most learned antiquaries being divided in opinion as to the original use of these Cyclopean erections, commonly designated *Cromlechs*,* and therefore, shall only observe that the commonly received opinion in this neighbourhood is, that it was erected over the remains of Catigern, as its name seems to infer. In the West of England similar large flat stones are called *Coit stones*, and Grose thence, with apparent reason, derives the name given to these, considering Kits Coity House, for so he calls it, simply to mean Catigern's House made of Coits.* As my reader may possibly object to the word *Coity*, I beg to remind him that this cromlech is variously designated by different writers: Camden calls it Keith Coty

* Camden, Grose, Colebrooke and others consider Kits Coty House a sepulchral monument; but Pegge and other antiquaries of note, are of opinion that this and other similar erections, were designed for religious purposes.

† See Grose's Antiquities, Vol. 2.

House; Lambarde and Philipott, Citscotehouse; and Kilburne, Kits Cothouse.

The height of the pile is between nine and ten feet, and the upper or largest stone weighs about ten tons and a half; but, as it is most accurately represented in the print preceding this excursion and from its vicinity to the road is too well known to require a minute description, I shall only notice the art shown in the placing of the stones, which, I believe, is not generally observed. The two blocks, which form the sides, stand about six feet apart, and lean a little towards each other, so that they could only fall inwards; but they are secured from doing so by the third set transversely between them; and the three are bound firmly together by the fourth and largest, which is placed on their tops as a roof. At a short distance below Kit's Coty House, towards the south-west, there are several large stones, which lie in such a confused heap that their number cannot be correctly ascertained; we judged it to be about twenty: and on the hill side, to the north-east by east of Kit's Coty House, there are several more lying near to each other; both these collections seem to have formed circles resembling, on a small scale, that of Stonehenge, and, like Kit's Coty House, were reared by the Britons either for a sacrificial altar, or a monumental trophy.

Besides those already mentioned there are several large stones scattered about the fields in this neighbourhood, some of which have names given to them. About fifty years ago an old spur, of extraordinary proportions and curious workmanship, was dug up

in a field near Cosington, its length is more than twelve inches, including the diameter of the rowel, which is above seven, though the part which receives the heel is scarcely larger than that of an ordinary modern spur; it is made for the left foot and on the outer side has a shelf on which is the figure of an animal *passant gardant*.* A curious dagger has also recently been found near Cosington, the hilt of which is richly inlaid with gold in elegant arabesque work.

COSINGTON was, from the time of John to that of Henry the VIII. the residence of an illustrious family of that name. Sir Stephen de Cosenton was made a knight banneret by Edward the I. at the siege of Carlaverock in Scotland. A few fragments only of the old mansion now remain to mark its site. At a short distance to the north-east of Cosington, in a lovely dell, is the head of a beautiful spring, which here, at its very source, fills a basin of about eight feet in depth with its pellucid waters: it is to be regretted that the trees which shadowed this charming spot have recently been cut down. This stream is also remarkable on account of its giving a deep rose colour to the stones over which it flows.

By the path from Cosington we came into the Rochester road at the point where it is intersected by the PILGRIM'S WAY, a narrow road which extends from London, through the middle of Kent, to Canterbury Cathedral; it was the general path of devotees to

* Spurs of this cumbersome size were worn on state occasions in the time of Edward the 3rd.

the shrine of St. Thomas à Becket, as it afforded them an opportunity of paying their respects, *en passant*, to St. Rumwald and the "gracious rood" at Boxley Abbey.

In the north-western angle of the cross formed by this road and the highway to Rochester, a stone formerly lay, which was commonly known by the name of the WHITE HORSE STONE, whereon, according to tradition, the Saxon standard, from which the present arms of Kent were taken, was found after the battle before spoken of. I recollect having read some lines alluding to this circumstance, among which, in effect, if not in the very words, were the following :—

Here fell that standard, now the pride of Kent,
The *Rampant Horse*; which as the victor seiz'd
"Here on this blessed spot, be *this*," he cried,
"The pledge of patriots that their country's safe."

Whether this tale be true or false, the arms of this county are the same as those which were borne by the Saxon chief, Hengist, namely, a rampant white horse on a red field : the stone was, some time since, broken into pieces and thrown into the road, by the order, *it was said*, of the tenant of the field in which it had lain undisturbed during so many ages. About six years ago a BRITISH TOMB was found in the middle of a large field, at about three hundred yards to the north-east of the crossing of the roads just mentioned : the sides were formed by two large stones leaning a little inwards, but having a stone bar placed so as to prevent their falling together, under which a rude arch of chalk and flints covered the skeleton.

A large stone formed the floor of the tomb, and each end was closed, to nearly the height of the cross bar, with smaller blocks. The body had evidently been buried with the knees bent, according to the custom of the ancient Britons, for the leg bones were lying on those of the thighs; the length of the grave was about six feet. This highly interesting relic met the same fate as the White Horse Stone, the field in which it was found being in the occupation of the same person.

A considerable number of Roman coins, and small bronze articles, consisting of fibulæ, or small pin brooches, instruments apparently for surgical use, &c. together with fragments of Roman bricks, tiles, and earthen vessels, were, not long ago, dug up on the brow of the chalk hill to the north-west of the Lower Bell public house. From this discovery it seems probable that one of the numerous speculative towers of the Romans occupied this eminence. Among the coins were several of Vespasian, Trajan, Hadrian, Antoninus Pius, M. Aurelius, Faustina, the elder and the younger, Constantine, Constantius, Constans, and Carausius, one of Agrippa, one of Claudius, and one small coin of Helen the mother of Constantine. Most of these relics are in good preservation.

The sun was near the horizon when we left this “vale by British courage sanctified;” we therefore quickened our pace, and soon reached the ruins of BOXLEY ABBEY, which was founded in 1146, by William d’Ipre, Earl of Kent, for white monks, of the Cistertian order. Lambarde gives a particular

description of the figure of St. Rumwald, and the Rood of Grace, by means of which "the sillie lambs of God's flock were seduced by the false Romish foxes at this Abbey;" but, as the account is long, I must refer those who are "curious in such matters," to his book. I may only observe that both figures were held to be tests of chastity and godly life; but it seems that the Saint always found those who paid most for his favor, to be the best disposed persons. These figures were publicly exposed and destroyed at St. Paul's Cross London, on Sunday, the 24th of February, 1538.*

Richard the I. Edward the I. and Edward the II. appear to have been great benefactors to this Abbey. In the reign of Edward the I. the Abbot of Boxley was summoned five times to sit in parliament. Edward the II. visited Boxley Abbey in the fifteenth year of his reign, and while residing there granted the charter to the citizens of London, empowering them to elect a mayor from their own body. The walls embrace about ten acres of land, within which there are several large ponds. The stream which runs through the enclosure possesses a petrifying quality; substances which have been immersed in it for two or three months will be found completely incrustated with a stony matter.

The dwelling house, the residence of Lady M. Finch, is a modern edifice. The only part of the Abbey itself remaining in good order, is a large building measuring above one hundred and eighty feet in length, and thirty-six in breadth: it probably was

* See Kilburne.

the refectory ; the original walnut-tree timbers of its roof are still quite sound. There were several entrances to the Abbey, the principal one was towards the north west. According to Lambarde, the *town* of Boxley formerly stood chiefly in the neighbourhood of the Abbey.

On the left hand side of the lane leading towards Sandling from the Abbey, there is a remarkably picturesque old stone cottage, which was formerly a CHAPEL dedicated to ST. ANDREW, and was served by a priest specially appointed to it : the chapel and the curate's apartments, which are attached to it, are still almost entire, and are well worth the notice of the antiquary.

The walk from Boxley Abbey to Maidstone is peculiarly adapted for the twilight hour ; the path lies across the Lower Grange farm, and thence, crossing the stream, winds through the wood to the lane at the back of PARK HOUSE, (the seat of E. H. Lushington, Esq., which commands a most beautiful and extensive view of the valley of the Medway,) and then passes through the evergreen alley over Thorn-hills to the town.

NORTH-EASTERN EXCURSION.

No. 2.

The first spot that claimed our attention in this walk was PENENDEN HEATH ; noted as having been the place for the public meetings of the county ever since the time of our Saxon forefathers : its name

was formerly written *Pinenden*, which is derived from the Saxon *pinian*, to punish, the malefactors of Kent having from time immemorial, till within the last few years, been executed here. In the 11th year of William the Conqueror's reign, "not only the whole number of the most expert men of this shire, but of sundry other countries also," assembled on this heath to settle the disputes between Lanfranc, Archbishop of Canterbury, and William's brother, Odo, Bishop of Baieux, and Earl of Kent, who, with others, had encroached on the possessions and liberties of Lanfranc, and the Bishop of Rochester. There were present,—Hamo, the Sheriff; Goisfrid, Bishop of Constance in Normandy, who sat as the King's representative; Egelric, Bishop of Chichester, who, being well acquainted with the laws and customs of the realm, was ordered to assist, and, on account of his great age and infirmity, was brought hither in a *waggon*; the Archbishop, who complained in person; Odo, who defended himself; Richard de Tunebrige; Hugh de Montfort; William d' Arsic; and many others of the English and Norman nobility, besides the hardy stout freeholders of the county. After a trial of three days, a decision was given in the Archbishop's favor.*

A new SHIRE HOUSE was about five years ago erected on the heath: it is a neat stone building, but its size and shape seems to have been taken too faithfully from those of "the poor low shed" of which it fills the place.

We proceeded hence to BOXLEY, which is one of

* See Lambarde and other historians of Kent.

the most picturesque villages in this county. The loveliness of its surrounding scenes, the retirement of its situation, the quiet and neatness of its street, which is shaded by stately forest trees and watered by a pellucid brooklet, induce me to exclaim, as Horace did in allusion to his Tibur,—

“Oh, may *this* be my resting place in age!” *

At the lower part of the village, is PARK HOUSE, a fine old mansion, the seat of Colonel Best, which stands in a small, but pretty paddock. The Earl of Romney has also a good residence, called BOXLEY HOUSE, at the upper end of the street, which is at present occupied by his son, Lord Viscount Marsham. On the side of the hill, behind this mansion, there is a summer-house, whence, in a clear day, the prospect is exceedingly fine and extensive, and fully compensates for the toilsome ascent by which it is obtained.

At the crossing of the roads, which is a short distance northward of this summer-house, stands an old STEPPING STONE, which, from the lines on it, appears to have been placed there for the convenience of those horsemen who might choose to ease their beasts in ascending or descending the hill. The inscription, now scarcely legible, is as follows :—

HERE I WAS SET
WITH LABOUR
GREAT.. JUDGE AS
YOV PLEASE TWAS
FOR YOVR EASE. 1609.

The last couplet offers an apology for the whimsical charity of the founder. I am not positive as to the

* Sit meæ sedes utinam senectæ. Lib. 2. Ode 5.

date : the author of "Summer Wanderings" in this neighbourhood, has given it as 1409, or 1609; I thought the latter.

DETLING was our next pausing place. A few years ago some entrenched embankments were discovered at a distance of about two miles from this village, in the direction of Bredhurst, which were considered by the antiquaries of this neighbourhood, to be the remains of a Roman camp; they formed nearly a square, with a double *vallum* on the north-west side. I am informed that a plan was drawn of this enclosure by a gentleman residing in this village, who carefully surveyed it for that purpose. Several fragments of Roman urns and other vessels, were found in digging for the foundation of the new parsonage, recently erected in the village street. Detling also contains a living curiosity—a man named YORKE; and he is indeed a *rara avis*—a second Diogenes in every thing but his deportment, which is affable. We paid him a visit at his dwelling, which is scarcely larger than the Cynic's tub, not being above seven feet square, though it serves him for shop, kitchen, study, and dormitory. As we approached his door, he eyed us closely: my friend could not forbear smiling at his appearance—his long hair, flowing beard, and strange garb, might have excused this expression of surprise; but the old man seemed offended, and resumed his work. However, we wooed him into good humour; and had a long conversation with him on a variety of subjects, from which, we considered that he possessed a quick and vigorous, though untutored, mind. He showed us a

powerful turning lathe, an air pump, and an electrical machine with its apparatus, all of his own handiwork. He supports himself by exercising the trades of a whitesmith and turner. It might be supposed that such a man as this had nought to do with vanity; but, if I mistake not, Yorke has no little pride in the knowledge that all others regard him as one who is not as they are; and, moreover, he seems "fond of the music of his own sweet voice." At length, having obtained his *pax vobiscum*, we proceeded to the ruins of THURNHAM CASTLE, which stand on the chalk hill just above the village: a portion of the foundation of the outer wall, and some fragments of the entrance, which was towards the north-east, now alone remain to "demand and taunt the stranger's eye." There are several opinions with regard to the time of the erection of Thorne Castle. Kilburne says, that it was *founded* in Stephen's reign by Sir Leonard Goddard; some suppose it to have been a Saxon fortification, and others a watch-tower and station of the Romans.* The last opinion is, in some degree, confirmed by the numerous relics of that nation which have been dug up about this hill; besides, the existing remains bear marks of a much greater antiquity than that Kilburne concedes to them; for even the flints of which they are built are completely eaten into by time and exposure to the weather. Leland, who wrote early in the sixteenth century, describes this castle as being then a ruin; so that Goddard must have been rather its *restorer*, than *founder*. Probably he incorporated the remains of the original

* See Philipott and Harris.

tower, with his own buildings, and the more ancient portions have outlasted his less durable additions. The walls contained about half an acre. On the south-eastern side is a hillock formed of fallen buildings, which probably composed the keep. I regret that I am unable to collect any further information on this subject: so completely has it survived its history, that even Speculation scarcely finds a point, whereon "to plume her wing for airy flight."

In a field not far from Thurnham church, in a north-westerly direction, the remains of a Roman building have been recently discovered. Some curious specimens of plain and ornamented stucco, together with a few coins of some the later emperors, and fragments of earthen vessels, were found within the square enclosed by the walls

Among the knights who attended Richard Cœur de Lion, in Palestine, was Robert de Thornham, who appears to have distinguished himself in the Crusade, in which however, according to Weever, he was slain.

On our way home from Thurnham, we visited the remarkable SAND CAVERNS at Newnham court farm; and really they are well worthy of notice. These subterranean passages are so long and intricate, as to render the assistance of a guide necessary. The boy, who conducted us, said that the length of the various pits exceeded half a mile, and that formerly their extent was much greater, more than a half part of them having been filled up by the falling in of the earth above, in consequence of the excavators having imprudently cut away the points of support, where some of the passages intersected each other. Those

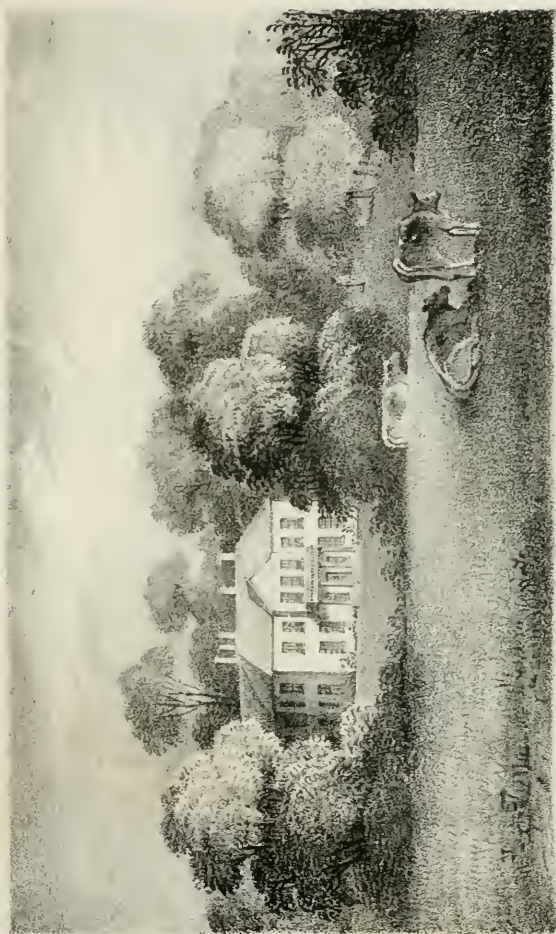
persons who intend to descend far into these caverns, should provide themselves with a fire box, as many have, by their torches being extinguished, been lost in their gloomy and dangerous maze for hours. From these pits many of the principal glass manufacturers and stationers in the kingdom, are supplied with the fine white sand used in their trades.

Crossing the road from Newnham court, we passed by VINTERS, anciently the residence of a family of that name : it now belongs to James Whatman, Esq. whose father purchased the estate, and built the present elegant mansion, a view of which is presented to the reader with this walk. Several Roman coins and urns have, at different times, been found in this neighbourhood. The park attached to Vinters is small, but exceedingly beautiful, possessing the charming variety of hill and dale, wood and water, with a pleasing, although not very extensive prospect.

EASTERN EXCURSION.

No. 3.

From Maidstone our path lay through the paddock of Vinters, mentioned in the last walk, to the hamlet of THE GROVE, where there is a vein of very fine fullers' earth, which for the last two centuries, has been a source of considerable profit to its different owners. In the reign of Charles the I. John Ray was pilloried and fined £2000, by the sentence of



Printed by J. B. Bachman.

WINTERS.

J. L. Hartman del.

the Star Chamber, for exporting this earth contrary to the king's proclamation.* Many years ago several Roman remains were discovered here, among which were some coins of Adrian and a funeral urn.

BERSTED followed next in order; this truly Old English village surrounds a large and very pleasant green, and has many good houses. Small white crystals are frequently found in the sand in this parish, they are exceedingly hard, and when polished are very brilliant; they are known in this neighbourhood by the name of *Bersted diamonds*. This place belonged to the illustrious family of the Berties, from whom it took its name. It seems to have been in their possession as early as the time of the Saxon king, Ethelred, in which Leopold de Bertie, who was constable of Dover castle, having a quarrel with the monks of Canterbury respecting the tithes, in which his son was slain, appealed for redress to the king; he however sided with the Archbishop, Alphegus, and Bertie, then induced Suene, king of Denmark, to invade this kingdom, and returning with an army of Danes, he took Canterbury, made the Archbishop prisoner, and, in 1014, revenged his son's death by killing every tenth monk in the Abbey. Soon after, on the defeat of the Danes, the son of Bertie retired to the French court, where his descendants remained until Philip de Bertie came over with Henry the II. who reinstated him in this his patrimonial estate, which continued in the hands of his family down to the time of Henry the VII. From this Philip de

* See Hume and Hasted, and the authority cited.

Bertie descended the Dukes of Ancaster, now extinct, the Earls of Abingdon, the Barons of Willoughby and many other illustrious families.*

In the CHURCH was buried Master Freeman Sonds, (second son of Sir George Sonds, of Lees court.) This youth was executed at Penenden Heath, on the 21st of August 1655, for the murder of his elder brother. The tower is ornamented with several grotesque heads, similar to those seen in the halls of colleges and other buildings of the 12th and two following centuries; and on its top are the figures of three animals, which some persons, for the sake of analogy with the name of the place, would have to be bears; but, from the positive dissimilarity of their forms, there can be, at all events, but one figure of that beast: we allowed that each might with *equal* propriety claim the distinction of the name, and concluding, therefore, that they were intended to represent creatures of classes now extinct, we left them in their "pride of place," and proceeded on our way.

On arriving at HOLLINGBOURNE, we first visited the CHURCH, the interior of which is decorated with some very fine and curious monuments. At the eastern end of the northern aisle there is an elegant chapel, beneath which is the vault of the Culpepers, formerly of this place: the walls of this chapel are almost covered with black marble shields, intended for the arms of those members of that family who might be buried here, but, with the exception of two,

* See Francis Nichols' British Compendium or Rudiments of Honour.—1731.

they are unhonored : in the centre of the pavement there is a splendid specimen of sculpture ; it is a monument of white marble in memory of Lady Elizabeth Culpeper, who died in 1638 ; her figure lies at length on the top of a raised tomb. The whole of the work is exceedingly fine, but the pre-eminent skill of the artist is shown in the most difficult part of this task, the drapery, which has that appearance of lightness and graceful ease, which can alone be given to stone by a *master spirit*. The chancel also contains some good monuments of the Culpepers, and one of Sir Martin Barnham and his wives. We could not obtain a sight of the superb plate and furniture of the altar. There are many other remarkable memorials of the dead in this church ; but our time was so limited that we could not give them the attention they justly claimed.

At a short distance above the church in the village street, stands an old brick mansion of the Elizabethan age, which exhibits a remarkably fine specimen of the architectural style of that time. Hasted says that the rector of Hollingbourne claims the use of two rooms in this house.

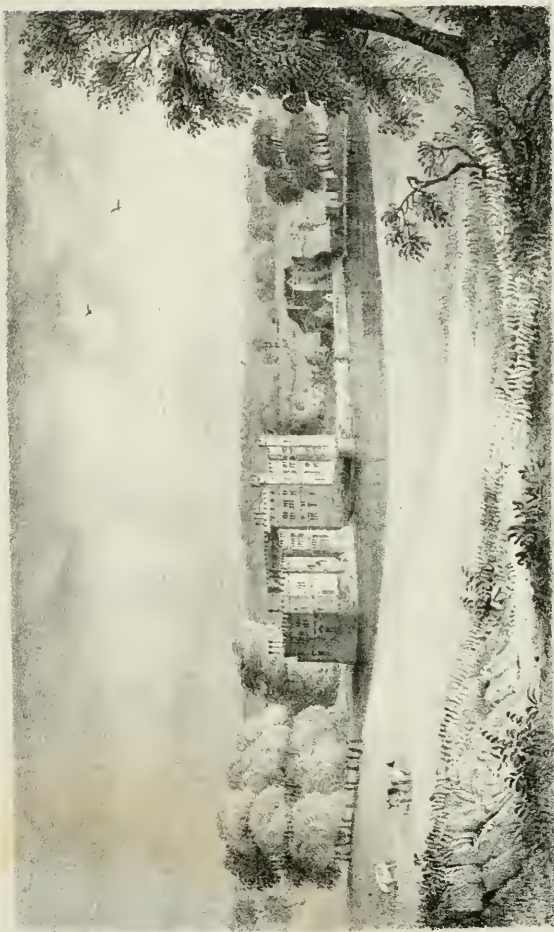
Sandys, the translator of Ovid's *Metamorphoses*,* speaks, (in the notes to the eighth book, while treating of the punishment of Eresichthon,) of one Wood, a labourer of this parish, who required as much food as *twenty* ordinary men. The author, on the testimony of eye witnesses, says that Wood eat at one meal, *a whole hog*, and at another, *thirty dozen of pigeons*!

* See the original folio edition—1632.

being a needy man he "*could hardly compass better food than the livers of bullocks.*"

For the sake of the prospect, we ascended the hill to the elegant villa of Baldwin Duppa Duppa, Esq. whence there is a most enchanting view of the valley, including Hollingbourne, Harrietsham, Leeds park and village, Otham, Bersted and their vicinities.

Hollingbourne having no farther attractions, we turned to LEEDS CASTLE, which is one of the most interesting objects in this part of Kent. The northern view of this noble pile, has been selected as the illustration for this division. The park is generally allowed to be the most beautiful in the county: its surface is pleasingly broken into hill and valley, richly wooded with fine forest trees, and watered by the Len, which winds through its centre, falling occasionally in cascades, and spreading into large ornamental ponds. The castle is encircled by a very wide moat: the greater part of the present building was erected a few years ago, and corresponds in style with the remaining portions of the old edifice, which seem to be of the time of Henry VIII. There are, however, some relics much more interesting on account of their antiquity: the shattered and ivied walls of the barbican, and the sullen grandeur of the gateway tower, carry the mind back to the times of feudal pomp and power: they are supposed to be remnants of the castle built here soon after the conquest by the Crevequers, on the site of an Anglo-Saxon fort. On the right hand side of the court, within the gates, is a large square building, said to be a part of the additions made in the time of Edward III. to this castle, at the



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LEEDS CASTLE.

expense of the crown, under the superintendence of William Wykeham, "the good Bishop of Winchester," who gained that honorable title by expending a portion of the vast revenues of his bishoprick in founding hospitals for the sick and poor, and schools for the encouragement of learning.

There are many remarkable persons and events connected with the history of this place, of which I cannot forbear taking a brief review, though, in so doing, I depart, in some measure, from my usual conciseness. The first record we have of this place mentions that one Ledian, chief counsellor of the Anglo-Saxon king, Ethelbert the II. built a fort here, about the year 865,* which was soon after destroyed by the Danes. The name of this castle and parish is a corruption of that of Ledian. In the early part of the Conqueror's reign this place was in the possession of his brother, Odo, on whose disgrace it was given to the Crevequers, one of whom in the same reign built a castle on the ruins of that of Ledian. Kilburne ascribes that work to Sir Hugh de Crevequer, and his son Robert. In the reign of Stephen, during the contest between that king and the empress Matilda, Robert, Earl of Gloucester, her natural brother, on a report of Stephen's death, seized this castle for the empress; "but King Stephan used against him such force and celeritie, that he soon wrested it out of his fingers."†

* See Kilburne;—Ethelbert the 2nd. commenced his reign in 861.

† See Lambarde.

From the family of the Crevequers it passed to the Leybournes, of whom the last possessor surrendered it into the hands of Edward I. it being considered, on account of its great strength, a necessary appendage to the crown : it was settled by that king on his second queen, Margaret, as part of her dower.

Edward the II. afterwards granted this castle and manor in *fee* to Bartholomew de Badlesmere, who, from his immense wealth, was named “the rich lord Badlesmere of Ledes :” he joined the Earl of Lancaster and the barons in their attempt to overthrow the Spencers, in the year 1321. The king, anxious to wrest this strong hold from Badlesmere’s hands, instructed his queen, (the infamous Isabel,) to gain possession of it, if possible. For this purpose she set out with a large train, as if “minding a pilgrimage towards Canterburie,” and approaching Leeds castle about sunset, sent her marshal to prepare lodgings therein, for herself and her attendants, in the king’s name. Badlesmere was then in the north of England with the malcontents, having intrusted the custody of his castle, family, and treasure to Thomas Culpeper, his castellan, who proudly and peremptorily told the queen’s officer that “neither the queen ne any other person should be lodged there, without the commandement of his lord the owner.” Isabel, on coming up, attempted to force an entrance, but was repulsed, and some of her attendants were slain. The King, vexed at the failure of his plan, hastily raised an army in London and Essex, and personally invested the fortress. Badlesmere persuaded his confederates to march to its relief; but they advanced

no farther than Kingston, and, according to Sir Thomas De la More, endeavoured to make terms with Edward, by the mediation of the Bishops of Canterbury and London. The king rejected their proposals, and stormed the castle, which, after a desperate struggle, was taken. Culpeper and the men under his command were immediately hung, the family of Badlesmere were sent to the tower of London, and the treasure and munitions appropriated by the king to his own use. Some writers assert that the garrison surrendered the castle for want of food. In the following year, Edward, having routed the rebels at Boroughbridge, in Yorkshire, and taken Badlesmere (amongst others) prisoner, sent him to Canterbury, where he was drawn, hanged, and beheaded; his estates were confiscated to the crown, in the possession of which this portion of them continued to the reign of Edward VI.*

Edward III. caused this castle to be repaired, and its splendor and strength so much increased, that it became a favourite residence of his successor, Richard II. Here too, it is said, that unfortunate prince was confined after his deposition, prior to his removal to Pomfret.† His successor, Henry the IV. also spent a short time here, while the plague raged in London. Henry the V. committed his step mother, Joane, to Leeds castle for conspiring against his life. In the reign of Henry VI., Eleanor, Duchess of Gloucester, was tried here before Archbishop Chichely

* See Camden, Lambarde, Philipott and others.

† See Kilburne.

for sorcery. On the accession of Richard the III. Sir Thomas Bouchier, who resided at this castle, was one of the commissioners appointed to take the oaths of allegiance of the inhabitants of this county. In the reign of Henry the VIII. Henry Guildford, Esq. who held this estate of the crown, rebuilt a great part of the castle at the king's cost.

I have already stated that this place formed a part of the possessions of the crown till the time of Edward the VI.: that king granted the fee of it to the St. Legers: they alienated it to the Smyths, who sold it to the Culpepers, one of whom, Lord John Culpeper, is famed for his faithful attachment to the cause of the Stuarts; he shared the exile of Charles the II. during which Leeds castle was used by the republicans as one of their places of rendezvous, and as a state prison for the principals of the royalist party. From the Culpepers this estate passed by marriage to Thomas, the fifth Lord Fairfax, who was the son of the cousin of the celebrated parliamentary general, Thomas, third Lord Fairfax, of whose deeds, so much,—of whose motives, so little, is known. Robert the seventh Lord, dying without issue in 1793, left this castle, with his other estates, to his nephew the Rev. Denny Martin, D. D., who assumed the name and arms of Fairfax: on his death it passed to his brother, General Martin, who by his will left it to Fiennes Wykeham, Esq. who has since taken the surname of Martin, and is the present owner.*

* For further historical information respecting Leeds castle, see Camden, Lambarde, Hasted and others.

On the 3d of November, 1778, George the III. and his queen, after having reviewed the grand camp at Coxheath, visited Leeds castle, where on the following day, they received the nobility and gentry of the neighbourhood.

At a short distance to the westward of Leeds park is BATTLE HALL, a building evidently of very ancient date : in one of the walls there is a large Gothic arch, which rises to the top of the house ; the piers of this arch are ornamented with curious figures : there is also a place for holy water : these, and several other remains, indicate that the edifice was designed for religious purposes : one of the rooms has a carved mantel-piece of fine workmanship. It is probable that this was a chapel under the priory of Leeds. When Hamon, or Hugh de Crevequer commenced building Leeds castle, he placed three canons in a chapel which he erected at the north-western side of it, who were removed by his son Robert, to the priory, which he founded in this parish in the reign of Henry I.* Some suppose that Battle Hall stands on the site of Crevequer's chapel ; but, as Hasted remarks, no part of the present building seems sufficiently ancient to give any support to this opinion, nor does its situation correspond with the above statement of that of Crevequer's chapel.

THE CHURCH stands between Battle Hall and the village ; it has a singularly low and strong square tower, which from its style is generally supposed to have been built soon after the conquest. It was

* See Kilburne and others.

probably erected by Robert de Crevequer when he founded the priory. This church contains several curious tombs of the Merediths, the possessors of Leeds Abbey, from the time of James I. to that of George II.; and a most costly monument of white and black marble, to the memory of Lady Jane, Dowager Countess of Carbery, who died in 1643; her first husband was Sir Wm. Meredith, Bart.: this tomb is almost covered with heraldic and other ornaments, but still has a very clumsy appearance.

The site of the ABBEY or PRIORY is immediately behind the south-eastern side of Leeds-street, but nothing exists now, save a few fragments of the walls, and the stone arch of the water-way of the mill, which belonged to the establishment.

This priory was founded in the year 1119, by Robert de Crevequer, (of whom I have frequently before made mention,) for black canons of the order of St. Augustine.* At the time when Henry VIII. thought it expedient "to turn church lands to lay" this was one of the principal of the lesser monasteries. It is said to have had a large and magnificent church, which contained a celebrated figure of the Virgin, that of course possessed all the miraculous powers necessary to make money pass from the hand of the admiring and credulous devotee, to that of the priest. Several of the Crevequers, Guido Mone, Bishop of St. David's in the reign of Henry the IV., and many other persons of note were buried in this church, of which now the place even is unknown. In cleaning one of the ponds on the abbey lands some years

* See Lambarde and Philipott.

ago, a small dagger of great antiquity was found ; the hilt appears to have been ornamented with chased work, and the shank is bound with twisted silver wire.

The most pleasant path from Leeds to Maidstone, lies through Caring-street, and the valley at the back of MILLGATE, the late residence of the Rev. Charles Cage, whence it turns into the turnpike road at Link or Lilk hill.

Most persons in this neighbourhood are well acquainted with the beauties of the MOTE PARK, though the free enjoyment of them has long been forfeited by the public, in consequence of the abuse of the privilege by many of those who availed themselves of it.

This manorial estate, in the time of Henry the III. formed part of the extensive possessions of the Leybournes. In the early part of the reign of Edward the III. it appears to have belonged to John de Shofford, by whose family name it was called. It was afterwards held by Ralph de Ditton, from whom it passed to the Burghersh family : Bartholomew de Burghersh was one of the first knights of the garter and held many high offices. In the latter part of this reign the Mote became the property of the Wydevilles or Woodvilles. John de Wydeville possessed it in the reigns of Richard the II. and Henry the IV. His son Richard was made a baron, by the style of Lord Rivers, Grafton and De la Mote, by Henry the VI. and Earl Rivers, by Edward the IV. who had married his daughter : that monarch also conferred the highest honors and trusts of the state upon him. The good fortune of Lord Rivers excited the jealous hatred of

the nobility, and he was beheaded at Northampton, without trial, by the people who had risen, under the Earl of Warwick, in favor of the dethroned Henry. When Edward had quelled this rebellion, Anthony, son of Richard Earl of Rivers, succeeded his father in the king's favor; he was made a knight of the garter, governor of Calais, constable of several castles, captain-general of the king's forces, both by sea and land, chief butler of England, and governor of the Prince of Wales, his nephew. On the death of Edward the IV. he fell a victim to the diabolical designs of Richard Duke of Gloucester, (afterwards Richard III.) The unfortunate Anthony was succeeded by his brother, Richard, Earl Rivers, from whom the Mote and his other estates in Kent were wrested by Richard the III. and bestowed on Sir Robert Brackenbury, constable of the tower of London: Henry the VII. restored them to the Earl. He left them to his nephew, Thomas Grey, Marquis of Dorset, who sold this part of them to Sir Henry Wiat, a privy counsellor of Henry the VII. His grandson, Sir Thomas Wiat was executed for rebellion in the first year of Queen Mary's reign, and the Mote, among his possessions, was confiscated to the crown. In the time of James the I. Sir Thomas Cæsar, one of the barons of the exchequer, owned this seat. His family alienated it in the reign of Charles I. to Sir Humphrey Tufton, brother of Nicholas, 1st Earl of Thanet.*

About the year 1690, it was sold by one of this

* See Philipott, Newton and Hasted.

family to Sir John Marsham, of Whorne's place, in Cookstone, Bart. He was succeeded by his son of the same name, on whose death without issue, this and his other estates passed to his uncle, Sir Robert Marsham, of Bushey hall, Hertfordshire, whose only son, Sir Robert, was made a peer in 1716, with the title of Baron Romney. His son and heir, Robert, Lord Romney, was L.L.D. F.R.S. President of the Society of Arts, and Lieut. Colonel of the West Kent militia. He was succeeded on his death in 1793, by his eldest son, Charles, who, in 1799, built the present mansion, the situation of which is in every respect preferable to that of the old house, which stood in the valley on the other side of the moat.

On the 1st of August, 1799, his lordship entertained king George the III. his queen, the royal family, the principal officers of state, a great number of the nobility and gentry of the kingdom, and the different corps of the Kentish volunteers, making collectively nearly 6000 men. This grand fête was given on the review of the volunteer force of the county, by his majesty. Hasted, at the end of the 10th volume of the octavo edition of his history of Kent, has given a very particular account of the review and dinner, as well as of all other matters connected with them: my limits will only allow room for a brief summary of the bill of fare:—the principal dishes were in number about 2,200: seven pipes of wine were bottled off to supply the tables, near which were placed 16 butts of the best ale, and the same quantity of good beer, to be resorted to by the guests at their

pleasure; besides which, his Lordship's cellar was open in case of a further supply being necessary. Hasted says that the length of the several tables added together, was 13,333 yards; but I conceive the word *yards* was put by mistake for *feet*. With the surplus of this splendid banquet, above 600 poor families, in Maidstone and its neighbourhood, were relieved on the following day. His majesty, by the commander in chief, and afterwards by an official letter, expressed his gratification in the warmest terms.

Soon after the review the corporation of Canterbury voted the freedom of the city to his Lordship, and in 1801 he was created Earl of Romney. In the same year the officers of the Kentish volunteers erected an elegant Pavilion, on the spot where the royal marquee stood at the review, to commemorate that event, and to mark their high respect for his Lordship's character, and their gratitude for his kind attention to their corps on every occasion, and particularly for his unparalleled hospitality on the 1st of August 1799. This building is of a circular shape with a dome roof.

At the southern part of this park there is a cavern or subterranean passage of great length, which seems to be a work of art, though it would be difficult to say for what use it was designed; on this point there are several absurd speculations current in this neighbourhood, which are not worthy of repetition. Caverns of a similar description found in England, are supposed by some writers to have been dug by the Britons or Anglo Saxons for secret granaries or

places of concealment.* The passage is generally about seven feet high and six broad, but in some places is much contracted, and in others expands into large cavities or rude chambers. The soil through which it passes is the hard rag-stone.

The late earl died in 1811, leaving one son, Charles, the present earl, and three daughters, Frances, Harriet, and Amelia Charlotte: Lady Frances, in 1805, was married to Sir John Riddell, of St. Boswell's Green, Scotland, Bart., since deceased: Lady Harriet Marsham died about nine years ago. The present earl has within the last few years repaired the Mote house, and built a stone wall round his extensive park.

I must not conclude this excursion, without noticing a chalybeate spring which rises under Turkey mill, and is said to be as strongly impregnated as those of Tunbridge Wells. Another little rill, which runs into the Len below the Artichoke public house, is said to possess a petrifying quality.

SOUTH-EASTERN EXCURSION.

No. 4.

For this walk we left the town by the Sutton road, from which we turned into the path which passes through Willington-street to Otham.

* See Camden's account of those near Faversham in this county.

The view from Otham Church-yard is not surpassed, if it be equalled, by any other in this neighbourhood : in the foreground lies a valley possessing every scenic charm but that of water : on the rising ground beyond, to the left, are the hamlets of The Grove and Wavering ; in front, Bersted church, Thurnham, and Aldington place ; and, to the right, the paddock of Millgate, with its groves of oaks : while “the blue hills in the distance rise” as the lovely boundaries of the prospect.

Not far from the church is the mansion of GORE COURT, now the property of the Rev. Wm. Horne, rector of the parish. Over the mantel, in the hall of this house, there is a fine specimen of antique carving in oak ; its devices are chiefly floral, and are wrought in a most masterly style ; at the lower part the heads of a king and queen are introduced, but they are not sufficiently good likenesses of any English monarch and his consort to determine the precise age of the work : it may, however, be safely said to be of a date prior to the time of Henry VIII. George Horne, Bishop of Norwich, was born in this house, on the 1st November 1730. He received his early education at Maidstone grammar-school, whence he went to University Coll. Oxford. This learned prelate was one of the most successful opponents of Hume, and is well known in the literary world by his numerous theological and philosophical writings. His most popular work is the Commentary on the Book of Psalms, published in 1776. He was made Dean of Canterbury in 1781, and Bishop of Norwich in 1790. He died on 17th January 1792, and was

buried at Eltham. William Henley, Esq. the late owner of this estate, married the Countess of Berghausen in Germany, who was celebrated for her beauty and accomplishments.

In the reign of Richard the II. a monastery was founded in this parish for *Præmonstratenses*, or white canons, by one Ralph de Dene, but the establishment was soon after removed by his daughter to Bayham in Sussex, where an abbey was built on a piece of land given by Sir Robert de Thornham.*

From Otham we proceeded to Langley. A spring rises in the park lands in this parish, which, after running about a mile, sinks into the earth at Brissing farm, and takes a subterranean way for nearly half a mile, but bursts forth again below Boughton Quarry and thence flows on without any farther break till it joins the Medway. The connection of the stream has been frequently proved by the re-appearance at Boughton of oil and pieces of wool thrown into the water at Brissing.

In the year 1472, (according to Kilburne), a new spring broke forth in Langley park: Leland gives a curious account of this brook;—he says, that the pit in which it rose would, when any battle was about to take place, be dry; but, when no battle was near, it would be full of water, however dry the weather might be. We could not find this mysterious and quaker-like spring.†

* See Kilburne and Philipott.

† There are several streams in this county, which, like this, only flow occasionally; they are commonly called *nailbourns*; there is one in the parish of Addington.

We then took the high-road to TOWN SUTTON, or SUTTON VALENCE. The latter addition to the name of this place is derived from the Valences, Earls of Pembroke, who held the manor in the reigns of Henry III. and of the first and second of the Edwards.

A few years ago, a ROMAN BURYING GROUND of large extent was discovered immediately above the street of Sutton; it contained about 100 earthen and glass vessels; among which were several parteræ, dishes, bottles, and urns in a perfect state; many of the urns had ashes and fragments of human bones in them; some of the pieces are very highly glazed and a few have names upon them, which, however, as they were evidently impressed at the pottery, were probably those of the makers. The ground was nearly square, and bounded on every side by a stone wall; at one corner there was a small square walled off from the rest of the enclosure. Most of the valuable relics collected from this spot are in the possession of a gentleman in Maidstone, whose kindness enabled me to give this account of them.

At the eastern end of the village stand the ruins of THE CASTLE, which, as some suppose, was built early in the reign of Edward I. by William de Valence, Earl of Pembroke, then owner of this place.* Others, however, consider it to be of much greater antiquity, and many, from the appearance of its remains and the materials of which they consist, which are quarry stone, flints and thin bricks, are of opinion that it was erected by the Romans as a watch

* See Philipott.





Engraved by J. B. Thompson

STONINGTON CASTLE

J. B. Thompson del.

tower, and converted after the conquest, by the nobles who possessed the Sutton estate, into a fortress for their adherents in times of commotion. This opinion, with regard to the origin of Sutton castle, is much strengthened by the discovery of the Roman burying ground.

The now remaining fragments of this fortress are luxuriantly enveloped with ivy and form an exceedingly picturesque object, as the reader will observe from the accurate view accompanying this account of them.

Edward I. sent Aymer de Valence, in 1306, to quell the third insurrection of the Scots against the dominion of England. He, suddenly attacking them, at Methven in Perthshire, after an obstinate conflict, completely overthrew them, though led by the gallant Bruce, who in vain exerted his utmost power and skill, and exposed himself to every danger; thrice he was dismounted, yet still continued the fight, until he was obliged to fly, his army being entirely routed. After this battle, Bruce concealed himself in the Western Isles, until a favorable opportunity presented itself, in the following reign, to liberate his country from the English yoke.*

In the 2nd year of Henry IV. the castle and manor of Sutton Valence passed to Reginald Lord Grey of Ruthin, whose quarrel with Owen Glendower led to the war between the Welsh, headed by that chieftain, and the English.* Lord Grey being taken prisoner by the Welsh, this with other estates belonging to him, was sold under the king's licence,

* See Hume.

to pay his ransom which was fixed at 10,000 marks.

A new Church was built here about eight years ago, on the site of the old one.

There is a FREE GRAMMAR SCHOOL in this place, which was founded, in 1578, by William Lamb, a native of this parish, who, as my reader will remember, was a benefactor to the Maidstone school: he gave to the master of that of Sutton the use of a house and garden, with an annuity of £20, and the yearly sum of £10 to the usher. He also founded and endowed six alms-houses in this village.

Sutton commands a most extensive and enchanting view of the rich valley of the Weald of Kent. It is said that 16 churches are to be seen from this place. Kilburne states that these low-lands were once covered by the sea, and brings forward to justify this assertion, the fact of an anchor having been found at a short distance below Sutton castle, not long before the time at which he wrote, (1659). A few years after, that is to say, in 1683, this opinion received a farther confirmation, from the discovery of a large collection of sea-shells imbedded in marle, at the foot of the hill at Hunton: this stratum lay about 15 feet below the surface; it was about an inch in thickness, and several square yards in extent; when dry, it resembled in appearance the Bethersden marble in a rough state.

There was nothing to attract us from the turnpike road on our way homeward, excepting the LABYRINTHIAN PATH, in Mangravit Wood, which was made by the late Earl of Romney: after wandering

through its maze we again turned into the road, and soon regained our place of repose.

SOUTHERN EXCURSION.

No. 5.

We found nothing worthy of notice in this walk until we reached BOUGHTON MOUNT. This estate is situated on the eminence which overlooks the quarry, from the Maidstone side. The late proprietor, John Braddick, Esq. built the present house about seven years ago: the old mansion, which stood on the other side of the road, and nearer to the valley, was a clock-house, and appeared to be of the time of Mary or Elizabeth. Mr. Braddick, who was a distinguished member of the Horticultural Society, chose this spot for his experiments, and stocked the grounds, at an immense expense, with the rarest and choicest fruit trees. This plantation will, it is thought, in a few years be one of the most valuable in the county.

The glen of BOUGHTON QUARRY has charms for the admirers of the picturesque and romantic, which are unrivalled in this neighbourhood. The valley is bounded by broken precipices of the rock, and abruptly-rising grass banks; while the neat cottages peep here and there between the trees by which its centre is ornamented. There was formerly at the north-eastern side of the quarry, a curious cavern commonly named TINKER'S HOLE from its being used for many years as a dwelling and work-shop

by an itinerant brazier, during his stay in these parts, which he visited annually. The cave, which was in the solid rock, was about twenty five feet in diameter, and was covered with a dome of rough crags which formed a ceiling not very pleasing to the eye of him who stood beneath it. At the farther part of the cavern, towards the right, was a recess in which the Tinker used to spread his couch; he also cut several smaller holes in the rock for storing his provisions, tools, and other necessities. I have not been able to collect any biographical anecdotes of this eccentric son of Vulcan, nor can I find that any *vera effigies* exists of him; his likeness would be an excellent companion to that of old Yorke of Detling. It is not known whether Tinker's hole was a natural or an artificial cavern—probably the former; it was destroyed when that part of the quarry was levelled about eight years ago. Many fossil remains were then found near this spot, and among them those of an animal much resembling the hyæna, which were presented to the museum of the Zoological Society in Baker-street, London.

The greater number of the houses in Boughton are at the Quarry, but the CHURCH stands above a mile to the southward of it. On the 30th of December, 1832, the body of Boughton church was destroyed by fire: it has since been restored. In the church-yard there is a stone with the following curious inscription on it:—

B
HOULD

I stand here to testify that here lyeth the body of
Thomas Walker, youngest Sone of Sarah Maddox.
He departed this Life the 12 day of January, 1688,
Aged 10 yeares.

The chancel of this church contains several remarkable monuments, which were happily preserved from the fire, but I have only room to notice here that of Sir Christopher Powell, of Wiarton in this parish, who died on the 25th of June, 1742. The figure of Sir Christopher, in the Roman costume, lies at length on a sarcophagus of black marble ; on one side is the figure of his wife ; her eyes are turned towards heaven and the expression of her countenance, that of resignation, is very strikingly marked ; a figure on the other side, represents his mother. The three figures are cut in white marble and are of the full size ; the tomb is also adorned with shields of arms, and heraldic devices. This superb work is from the chisel of Scheemaker.

Near to the church is the mansion of BOUGHTON PLACE, the seat of Thomas Rider, Esq., one of the members of parliament for West Kent. A great part of the present house was built in Elizabeth's time, by Robert Rudston, Esq. who, in the preceding reign, had forfeited this with his other estates, and been even condemned to death, as one of the coadjutors of Sir Thomas Wiat in the Kentish rebellion ; Mary, however, spared his life, and Elizabeth restored his property.

A spring rises near Boughton church, which is supposed to have communication with that of Brissing, which I noticed in my last excursion ; several experiments have been made in order to ascertain whether a connection existed between them or not, but accounts both *pro* and *con.* are given of the result of these trials.

COXHEATH lies at a short distance to the westward of Boughton church. This spot on account of its contiguity to those parts of the sea coast of Britain, which are nearest to the continent of Europe, and also for its healthy situation, has been repeatedly chosen for encampments, when this kingdom has been threatened with invasion. In 1756, there was a Hanoverian camp here of 12,000 men. In 1778, a force of 15,000 lay here, which was personally inspected, on the 3rd of November, by George the III. In the following year, and in 1781, as also in many other subsequent years, there were large encampments on this heath, and even as recently as 1804, it was a *Campus Martius*. It is now enclosed, and

The corn-field takes the place of bristling spears.

We then entered the Maidstone road, and soon arrived at the village of Loose, which probably is so called from its being situated on the stream, which, as I have before said, loses itself in the earth at Brissing, and rises again at Boughton quarry, whence it flows on through this place. The view which embellishes this excursion will at once recal, to the minds of most of my readers, the beauties of this village, as they appear from the path leading towards the ponds below Loose Court.

The steepness of the descents to Loose from Coxheath and Maidstone having occasioned many serious accidents, a new road was a few years ago raised across the valley, not far from the old one, in the easterly direction. It passes over the stream and the Boughton road, on a fine arch almost rivalling

that at Highgate. As far as we could judge by the eye, its span is about fifty feet, and its height about thirty.

The old mansion house of SALT'S PLACE, formerly the seat of the Bufkin family, now a part of the estates attached to Leeds Castle, stands just out of the village on the way to Boughton. The gardens have still terraces in them.

On our way homeward, instead of keeping the highway, we took the road which passes by Loose COURT. This elegant villa belongs to Edward Penfold, Esq. who has laid out the grounds attached to it in the most tasteful manner. About midway between Mr. Penfold's and the town of Maidstone is HAYLE PLACE, formerly named *Le Hayle* from the healthiness of its situation: Colonel Jones, its present owner, has much enlarged and improved the house. In the last spring several ROMAN URNS, were found on this estate, some of which were of a singular shape; unfortunately few of them were sufficiently perfect to be worth preserving. From the side of the hill to the northward of Hayle Place, Maidstone is seen to greater advantage than from any other point, and the back ground of the scene is rich in those charms which the pencil of Claude Lorraine loved so much to depict.

Our walk was then nearly finished and we re-entered the town by Stony-lane and Knight-rider-street.

SOUTH-WESTERN EXCURSION.

No. 6.

In commencing this walk, as in finishing our last, we passed over the spot where the Kentish royalists first engaged the Parliamentary forces, under their celebrated general, Fairfax, when they attacked Maidstone in 1648, as I have before stated.

The hop-ground, (commonly known by the name of its possessor, Mr. Corrall,) through which our path lay, is a favorite walk of the inhabitants of Maidstone in the summer months. As this plantation is uniformly well cultivated, it is frequently visited by the London dealers in hops, during the growth of the plant, in order that they may be enabled, from the appearance of this their *sample garden*, to form an estimate of the probable growth of the particular year. It may here be remarked that it is supposed the hop was first planted in the neighbourhood of Maidstone, after its introduction to England from the Netherlands, in 1524. Thomas Tusser, the poet, who flourished at that time, gives directions for its culture, which are by no means despicable even in these days; he concludes with the following quaint lines :—

The hop for its profit, I do thus exalt,
It strengtheneth drink, and it savoureth malt,
And being well brew'd, long kept it will last,
And drawing abide, if you draw not too fast.*

On the other side of the Toville road, where this path joins it, is the PEST-HOUSE. It derives its name

* See his 'Five Hundred Points of Good Husbandry.'

from having been used as an hospital for those who were afflicted with the small-pox, when it raged in Maidstone, to a most terrific extent, about the middle of the last century.

In the quarry behind this building, the skeleton of a man was found about nine years ago; a bayonet, and some military buttons, bearing the East India Company's mark, were with the bones, which, from that circumstance, were supposed to have been those of a soldier in that service. I have heard that the bayonet also bore the date 1809, and that some fragments of cloth remained attached to the buttons, so that, probably,

On earth foredoom'd to feel the pangs of hell,
He still exists whose tongue the whole could tell.

The discovery furnished a topic for mysterious surmise for a few days, but was treated too much as a subject for mere wonder. A gentleman in this town certainly exerted himself to obtain a clue which might lead to the discovery of the circumstances connected with the death and burial of the man, but, unfortunately, his laudable efforts were without success.

The hamlet of TOVILLE is pleasantly situated on the banks of the Langley stream, which just below falls into the Medway. On this brook, between Boughton Quarry and its junction with the river, a distance of about three miles, there are no less than twelve large mills for paper and flour. The house of TOVILLE PLACE, now belonging to—Hepburn, Esq. is most delightfully placed on the Maid-

stone side of the hamlet, and overlooks the town, and the rich country through which

The silver Medway glides, and in her breast
Views the reflected landscape.

On the top of the hill, at the other end of Toville, within a short distance of the road to the Farleighs, is an old BURYING GROUND for dissenters: the oldest tombstone now remaining there is that of Simon Pine, which bears date 1681.

I presume that most of my readers have enjoyed the enchanting view from the field hard by this cemetery: those who have once known its charms must again often seek the renewal of the delight they bestow; those who are unacquainted with them have a *new pleasure* in store, which will not fall short of their brightest imaginings: cynical indeed must he be, who, gazing on such a scene as is here presented to the eye, would not, for the time at least, cease to rail against the world, and to remember its cares and vexations.

In the dwelling house of the Rev. B. Post, which stands near the burying ground, there is a room which was used as a conventicle by the Puritans, during the persecutions to which they were subjected; on the walls of this apartment, until they were papered recently, several texts from the Holy Scriptures were legible. There was a very spacious hall in this house, but it has been long since divided into several rooms.

From this place we returned to Toville, and took our way up that beautiful vale through which the

Langley stream, which I have had occasion frequently to mention before, takes its course, forming those several fine sheets of water, commonly known by the name of the LOOSE PONDS. This happy valley combines within its narrow bounds the most varied and exquisite beauties of scenery :—

'Tis lovely in hill and in dale,
 And in groves, those soft groves,
 Where the nightingale loves,
 To warble his tenderest tale,
 While the moon from above,
 Smiles down on this beautiful vale.

'Tis lovely in crag and in lake,
 And in stream, gentle stream,
 Where the pale lilies gleam,
 When Zephyrs their liquid couch shake,
 And all playfully seem
 To fondle the charms they awake.

There is not even in this neighbourhood, rich as it is in the romantic and picturesque, a more delightful spot than this, for an evening walk,

When the mind is at ease, and the eye and the heart
 are contented.

Near Hayle mill there are several little rills which have been tested and found highly impregnated with iron.

From the southern or upper end of this valley, we turned up the hill to PIMPE'S COURT, which takes its name from the Pimpes, who held this manor from the reign of Edward I. to that of Henry the VII. I shall have occasion to speak again of this illustrious family in my next division, under the head of Nettledale Place, which was their principal seat.

In the reign of Henry the VIII. Pimpe's court belonged to Edward Stafford, Duke of Buckingham, and lord constable of England. This nobleman was descended from Edward the III. and, being a believer in astrology, made "some dark applications to a wizard and a monk" named Hopkins, who persuaded him that on the king's death without issue he would by right succeed to the throne. By this infatuation he was beguiled into treasonable expressions and acts, for which he was tried and condemned by a jury of peers, and shortly afterwards beheaded, and this and his other estates were forfeited to the crown.* On the accession of Mary, Pimpe's court belonged to William Isley, Esq. who, taking a part in the Kentish rebellion against that queen, forfeited this with his other possessions: his father, Sir Henry Isley, who was also concerned in that unfortunate affair, was executed at Maidstone, or, as some state, at Seven-oaks. There are no remains of the old mansion standing now, at least none deserving notice.

Passing over the western end of Coxheath we then went to Hunton. As I had heard much of the old mansion of BURSTON in this parish, we visited it first; but were much disappointed when we found that its appearance was very similar to that of any other large farm-house: however, a friend of mine, who resides in the neighbourhood, told us that he well remembered the time when a great part of the old house was standing, in which there were several fine rooms, a very spacious gallery, and a small chapel. The only thing now

* See Philipott and Hume.

remaining to show that the place has ever been more distinguished than it is at present, is the terrace walk in the garden. The manor and house of Burston belonged to a family of that name, from the time of Henry III. down to that of Elizabeth, when they were sold to the Fanes, several of whom lie buried in this church. The PARSONAGE, which is not far below Burston, is an elegant and spacious house, most pleasantly situated in the midst of pleasure grounds, which are laid out with very great taste. In a retired part of the garden there is a summer-house, which is built and fitted up like a hermit's cell, and, in the summer, must be a delightful haunt for meditation. A little farther on is the house of JENNINGS, the seat of—Malcolm, Esq. which is surrounded by a neat paddock, ornamented with oaks and other forest trees.

We next visited the CHURCH, in which, on the north side of the altar, there is a grand monument to the memory of Sir Thomas Fane, of Burston, Knight, Lieutenant of Dover castle, and Dame Helen Somerset, his wife, who both died in the year 1606. Their figures, finely carved in white marble, lie at length on the tomb; he is represented in armour; beneath are the figures of two children, one kneeling, the other lying as if dead. In the chancel there is a curious place for the reception of holy water, which is in a fine state of preservation. Near the church stands an old clock-house, with the dial-plate still remaining. At Barnhill farm there is also an old dwelling, the gables of which are ornamented with carved wood-work. In the centre of the cross-beam

(which is decorated with figures that may be taken for dragons, or any other description of winged animals,) is the name SAMUEL RICH, surmounted by the date 1623.

Re-crossing Cox-heath, we paid a visit to WEST FARLEIGH. SMITH'S HALL, the residence of Sir H. Fitzherbert, Bart., stands on the site of an old mansion of the same name, which for many centuries belonged to the Brewer family. In the reign of John, William de Brewer, of Smith's Hall, was Lieutenant of Dover castle. TUTSHAM, or TOTESHAM HALL, stands about three quarters of a mile to the westward of the church; the present house is chiefly modern, but some parts of the original mansion are still to be seen. John de Totesham was one of the Judges of the great Assize under king John. The view from this spot is exceedingly fine: immediately beneath the eye is a most lovely valley, in which the corn-field, the hop-garden, the orchard, and the mead, interspersed with stately trees, unite their varied beauties, amidst which, the Medway holds its path, enlivening with its silvery mazes the charms of the prospect, which is bounded on the left hand by the high part of Mereworth park,—in front, by the church, village, mansion and park of Teston, and on the right by the rising ground of Barming, and the Boxley hills which are seen in the distance.

We were then *homeward bound*, and soon arrived at EAST FARLEIGH. In the church of this parish there are several monuments of the Amhersts, and it is said that many of Pimpes lie buried in it: a large canopied tomb, without any figure or inscrip-

tion, which stands in a chapel in the south chancel, is supposed to have been placed over the remains of one of that family; the chapel still belongs to the Pimpe's court estate. There is a curious flat arched tomb on the north side of the chancel, bearing the arms of the Culpepers. The lofty door way which opens from the tower into the church is Norman; it is ornamented with chevron or zig-zag mouldings.

The Farleighs were given by Queen Ediva, in the year 941, to the monks of Christ church Canterbury, to whom they produced an annual rent of 1200 eels.* As we took this walk during the hopping season, we had the *pleasure* of seeing the Irish pickers in their glory: hundreds of these poor, but happy creatures, divided into parties of six or eight each, were employed in preparing their suppers at fires by the side of the road; and, excepting an occasional skip and "*hurrah! for ould Ireland!*" seemed as amiably quiet and contented as their betters. The hop has often engaged the attention of the poet; the beauty and virtues of this valuable plant are frequently alluded to by Philips, in his poem entitled *Cider*, (which I may remark, is considered to be the closest imitation extant of Milton's style of versification;) and the poems of Christopher Smart, M. A. who was born at Shipbourne, near Wrotham, in 1722, contain one, 'The Hop-garden,' exclusively devoted to its praise; this piece and the other numerous productions of his Muse exhibit great power

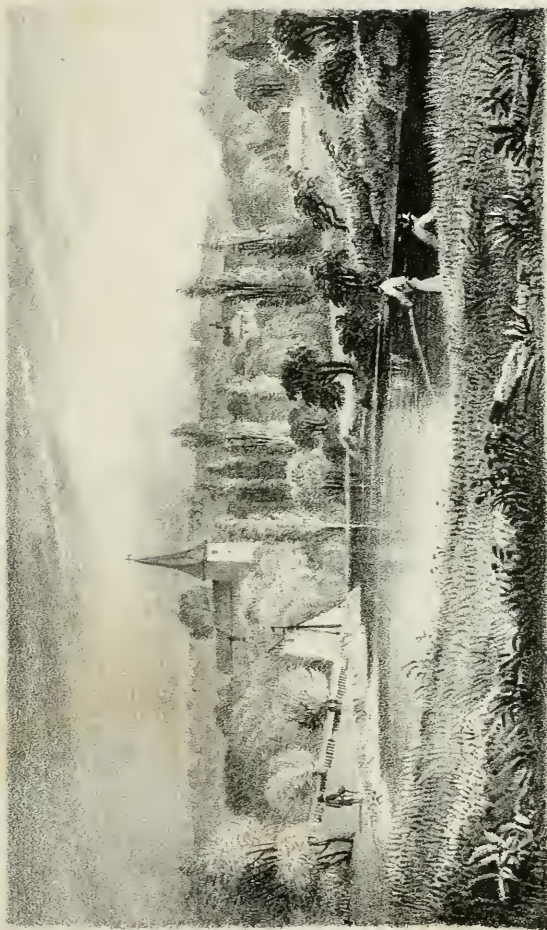
* See Lambarde and Philipott.

and beauty both in thought and expression. Mr. S. was educated at Maidstone grammar school; he died in 1770.

The view of this village here presented, is taken from the opposite side of the river a short distance above the bridge, a slight trespass having been made on the boundary of the next excursion, for the sake of the additional beauties which were so obtained for my reader's gratification. We then crossed the river, in order that we might return to Maidstone by the path along its bank. I must here notice that when General Fairfax marched to surprise Maidstone, he passed across the Medway, just below East Farleigh, having dispersed a small body of the royalists, who ventured to oppose him. On the Farleigh side of the stream, at a short distance from the village, is a modern castellated house of a very singular style, which was built by the late Captain Dominicus.

Near Fant there are several large hollows where stone was formerly dug; these quarries are supposed to have been worked many centuries ago. Henry V. in 1419, gave an order to John Benet, a mason in Maidstone, for 7000 stone cannon balls, which were probably supplied from this spot: the use of iron shot was introduced by the French, at the siege of Cherbourg, in 1418, to annoy the English camp.* Passing on by the river side, through the PARK MEADOWS, which are in front of the Palace, of which, when it was the residence of the Archbishops, they formed the Park, we re-entered the town by the bridge.

* See Grose's Military Antiquities.



Printed by Thompson

THE SOUTHERN RIVER

J. H. Moore & Co.

WESTERN EXCURSION.

No. 7.

Turning from the Tunbridge road, at the Bower, we went through the fields to the estate of HALF YOKE or HALFWAY OKE, which lies near to the northern end of East Farleigh bridge, and was formerly a manor. Halfway Oke formed a part of the possessions of the Pimpes, from whom it passed to the Isleys, and was forfeited to the crown on the attainder of Sir Henry Isley for treason against Mary.

About a mile from East Farleigh bridge is that of St. Helen, which is built of wood: its name is derived from St. Helen's, or East Barming manor, the house of which stood a short distance northward of the river, where it is now crossed by this bridge. This manor of East Barming was called St. Helen's, Ellen's, or Elen's, (for the name is thus varied in different writings) because it was anciently attached to the nunnery of St. Helen, in Bishopgate-street, London.

We continued in the delightful path by the river's side, till we arrived at NETTLESTED, which is about six miles from Maidstone. The ruins of the mansion of NETTLESTED PLACE, which was the principal seat of the Pimpe family for many centuries, stand near to the western bank of the Medway, and hard by the parish church. Sir Philip de Pimpe was one of those who were assessed by Edward the III., during

his wars with France, to provide a guard for the sea coast of Kent. Reginald de Pimpe, joining the Duke of Buckingham against Richard III. was attainted, and forfeited the manor of Nettlested with his other estates, but, on the accession of Henry VII. he was restored in blood and re-instated in the possession of his property. He left an only daughter, who carried this estate in marriage to John Scott, Esquire, of Scott's Hall, at Smethe, in this county, about 1500. His grandson, Sir John Scott, Knight, in the reign of Mary, married a lady of the Strafford family, who, being a zealous protestant, in order to avoid persecution, retired to Geneva, where she remained till the accession of Elizabeth, when returning to England, she was received by that queen with the greatest kindness, and made one of the ladies of the bedchamber. I presume that her husband died during her exile, as it appears that on her return she resided at Nettlested place with her son, Sir John Scott, who during her life repaired the house, in the year 1586. She died in 1598, and is buried in Nettlested church. It is said that Elizabeth once visited this mansion while this lady possessed it.

The estate remained in the Scott family till the time of William III. when it was sold to the Botelers of Teston House, in Teston, to the owner of which (Lord Barham,) it still belongs.

The parts of the mansion now remaining seem to have formed the southern wing, and a small portion of the centre, which connected the eastern extremities of the wings. The southern wall is strengthened with buttresses of a curious construction, each being

hollowed within so as to form a recess in the apartment against which it is placed, and pierced with a circular window : between these buttresses there are gothic windows of a remarkably elegant design. On the sides of the upper part of a stone door case in this wall is inscribed A.D.—1586. We noticed one room the sides and ceiling of which seemed to have been handsomely panelled with oak, but only a small piece of this ornamental work now remains on the walls ; the joists to which the ceiling was attached have been entirely cut away. Under this apartment is another which appears to have been the kitchen, at one end of which there is a very fine crypt, vaulted with stone arches intersecting each other : two short pillars support the ends of the arches in the middle line of the vault, which is now divided into three small rooms, by modern brick walls, and is used for store cellars : its entire length is about thirty-five feet.

The CHURCH stands at a short distance to the north of these ruins. The body of the present building is supposed to have been erected between 1460 and 1470 by Reginald de Pimpe, of whom I have before spoken. The windows on the north side of the church are chiefly of painted glass, exhibiting the coats of the Pimpes, Scotts and several other illustrious families, interspersed with white roses, from which it may be presumed that those whose devices are here depicted, were favorable to the house of York. Several of the Pimpes and Scotts are buried in Nettlested church, and amongst those of the latter family, the Lady Scott of whom I have before

spoken, who, from the handsome marble monument which covers her remains, appears to have died in 1598. Before I quit this interesting place, I should inform my readers, that the account I have given of its former possessors in some points differs from that of Hasted, my information on the subject having been derived from the M.S. of a gentleman, whose account seems to be more connected than that of the great Kentish historian.

We next visited MEREWORTH CASTLE, the seat of the ancient and noble family of the Le Despencers. This house was built about the year 1740, by John, the seventh Earl of Westmoreland: the plan was taken from that of a villa near Venice, designed by the celebrated Palladio. It is surrounded by a moat, and approached by a noble flight of steps on the northern side: the building is of a square form, and is surmounted by a lofty dome, under which is the hall: the walls and ceiling of this and the other principal apartments are painted: the wings stand a little in advance of the main building, with which they correspond in design. The park is exceedingly beautiful, being watered by a fine stream, and well wooded with stately oaks: the high grounds at its southern side command delightful views of this the richest district in Kent.

Mereworth, from the time of Henry the II. to that of Edward the III. was held by a family of that name. William de Mereworth accompanied Richard Cœur de Lion to Palestine. It subsequently belonged to the Earls of Arundel, the Lords Aberga-venny, and the Fanes, Earls of Westmoreland. It

passed on the death of John Earl of Westmoreland, in 1760, to Sir Thomas Stapleton, Bart., afterwards Lord Le Despencer, whose grand-daughter at this time possesses it together with the title, the Barony of Le Despencer descending to the heirs general.

The CHURCH of Mereworth, which was also built by the Earl of Westmoreland, about the same time as the castle, is remarkable for the beauty of its style: at the west end there is a fine Corinthian portico and a tower surmounted by a lofty and elegant spire: the interior is painted and the windows are ornamented with coloured glass.

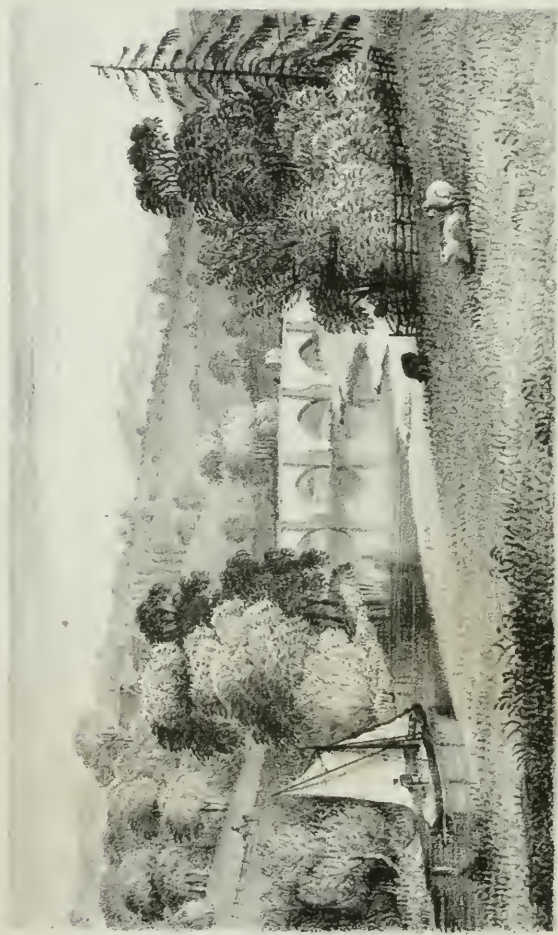
At WATERINGBURY, our first enquiries were for the WOODEN BORSHOLDER and its DEPUTY, but we found that these powers had ceased to be. As the instrument was formerly a *thing* of no little importance in this parish, perhaps a description of it will not be deemed out of place here. In shape and size it nearly resembled an instrument well known in this county—the hop pitcher: at its top there was a round knob to which an iron ring was attached; four more rings of the same metal were affixed to the swell at the lower part of the staff, which was shod with a strong spike ferrule of iron, about four inches long; the length of the staff, exclusive of the spike, was about three feet. The deputy of this DUMB BORSHOLDER OF CHART, as it was generally called, claimed liberty over fifteen houses situated at Pizein Well, near a place called Chart Garden, in this parish, into any of which he might, with the aid of his principal, force an entrance, without a justice's warrant, if stolen goods were supposed to be con-

cealed therein. This instrument has for nearly a century been deprived of its power and deputy, the borsholder of Watringbury having ever since it was put aside had authority over the whole parish.* In Watringbury Church there are some fine specimens of painted glass. One of the windows, on the southern side, seems formerly to have been ornamented with a pictorial representation of some historical subject from the Holy Scriptures, but the fragments remaining are insufficient even to develope the story.

I must not pass by TESTON HOUSE, or BARHAM COURT, as it is also called, without remarking that it belonged, in the reign of Henry II. to Randal Fitz-Urse, one of the four knights who murdered Thomas à Becket at the altar of St. Benedict, in Canterbury Cathedral, on the 29th December, 1170. After the assassination of the Archbishop, Fitz-Urse fled to Ireland and took the name of Mac Mahon, of which the meaning, *the son of a bear*, was similar to that of his former name.† His estate passed to one of his near relatives, Robert de Barham, whose descendants possessed it down to the latter part of Elizabeth's time, when it went by marriage to the Boteler family. Sir William Boteler, who in 1641 was made a baronet by Charles I., distinguished himself by his firm attachment to that monarch, during the civil war with the parliament. He was one of those who signed the petition for peace, when the parliament had declared war against the king, for which he was committed to the Fleet prison, and

* See Hasted,

† See Philipott.



Printed by C. Hutchinson

WESTON BRIDGE.

J. H. Merritt fecit

there confined for seven weeks, when he was discharged on bail to the amount of £20,000. After this his house at Teston was attacked and plundered, and his estate devastated by the opposite party, who exacted above £3000 from him before they permitted him to resume the possession of his own property. Far from being disheartened by this persecution, he raised and armed a regiment of royalists, at his own cost, at the head of which he was slain at the battle of Cropredy bridge, in 1644. A full account of this gallant cavalier, is to be found in Lord Clarendon's history of the rebellion. Lord Barham now owns this estate. The house, an elegant modern building, stands in a very pleasant park, and overlooks the Medway, and the greater part of that tract which is justly denominated *The Garden of Kent*.

Here towering spires

First catch the eye, and turn the thoughts to heaven.

The lofty elms in humble majesty

Bend with the breeze to shade the solemn groves,

And spread a holy darkness : Ceres there

Shines in her golden vesture. Here the meads,

Enrich'd by Flora's dædal hand, with pride

Expose their spotted verdure. Nor are you,

Pomona, absent ; you 'midst hoary leaves

Swell the red cherry ; and on yonder trees

Suspend the pippin's palatable gold.*

The annexed sketch exhibits many of the charms which the poet has so happily described.

We then passed on by the road to BARN-JET, or WEST BARMING. The manor house, and the greater

* From 'The Hop-garden,' by Christopher Smart, M. A.

part of this little parish, have for more than a century belonged to the Amherst family. The living of this parish in the reign of Henry the VII., was united to that of Nettlested. The church, or rather chapel, which stood immediately behind Barn-jet house, of course soon became ruinous, and now not a stone of it remains. The inhabitants have since paid a small yearly sum to the patron or the rector of Nettlested as a composition for tithes, and supported their own poor.

About fifty years ago, some skeletons of men and horses with several fragments of armour, were dug up between Barming Heath and the river, on the spot where a small party of the royalists attempted to dispute the passage of the parliamentary forces in their march to attack Maidstone in 1648. Several Roman urns and coins have at different periods been discovered in the vicinity of this heath, which strengthens the opinion of those antiquaries who think that the military way to the Roman station at Oldborough, in Ightham, passed over this spot.

A LUNATIC ASYLUM for this county was built about four years ago on the eastern part of Barming heath, but within the bounds of Maidstone parish. It is calculated for the reception of 168 patients and cost about £40,000. It is a plain stone edifice, well adapted in situation and every other respect to the melancholy purpose for which it is designed, and much as we must regret that so large a building of this description is required for this county, we must, at the same time, admire and commend the benevolent care which thus provides a safe and proper

hospital for those, who, by the severest of earthly afflictions, are rendered unfit to join in the commerce of society.

NORTH-WESTERN EXCURSION.

No. 8.

The first object of interest which we had to seek in this walk, was the ruin of THE FREE CHAPEL OF LONGSOLE, which stands nearly in the centre of the wood between East Malling and Maidstone. On arriving at Rocky hill, we turned to the left in the path which passes behind the large stone quarries of Messrs. Bensted and Higgins. In March last a considerable portion of the fossil skeleton of an Iguanodon was discovered here, at a depth of above forty feet below the surface of the earth: the rock which contained it was blasted with gunpowder, and consequently a great part of the skeleton was destroyed, Mr. Bensted carefully collected and arranged all the fragments that could be found, which were inspected by Mr. G. Mantell, F.R.S., Mr. Saul, F.S.A. Lord Cole and other geologists and scientific persons. It appears that the Iguanodon was an herbivorous reptile, and by a careful comparison of its bones with those of the Iguana, that its length sometimes exceeded 100 feet; that of the individual animal, whose remains were discovered here, was computed to have been about 70 feet. The bones of the Iguanodon had previously only been found in the

Hastings sands, in Tilgate forest. This interesting relic of the antediluvian world, is in the museum of Mr. Mantell, who resides at Brighton. Two fossil teeth of the crocodilian type, one of which was three inches long, have since been found in this quarry. Hence we proceeded through the wood to the Hermitage, for such is the common name of the little farm on which the ruin of the chapel stands. It is now used as a barn, and there is little to show that it was ever designed for a higher use, excepting a stone door-case of good workmanship and proportions, at the western end of the building. It was dedicated to St. Lawrence, and seems to be of very early foundation. Edward III. granted his licence to Stephen Fynamour, chaplain to Longsole chapel, to buy lands of the yearly value of 100 shillings, for the maintenance of himself and his successors. In the reign of Henry the V. an enquiry was instituted to determine whether Longsole was in the parish of Allington, or of Aylesford; the rector of the former, and the vicar of the latter, mutually claiming the oblations offered at this chapel; when it was ascertained to be in Aylesford parish.*

From the Hermitage we regained the London road, in which we continued till we reached Larkfield, when, again inclining to the left, we passed by BRADBOURNE, the delightful seat of Sir John Twisden, and through the village of East Malling, to WEST or TOWN MALLING. At the eastern end of Town Malling stand the remains of the ABBEY for black nuns of the order of St. Benedict, which was

* See Hasted

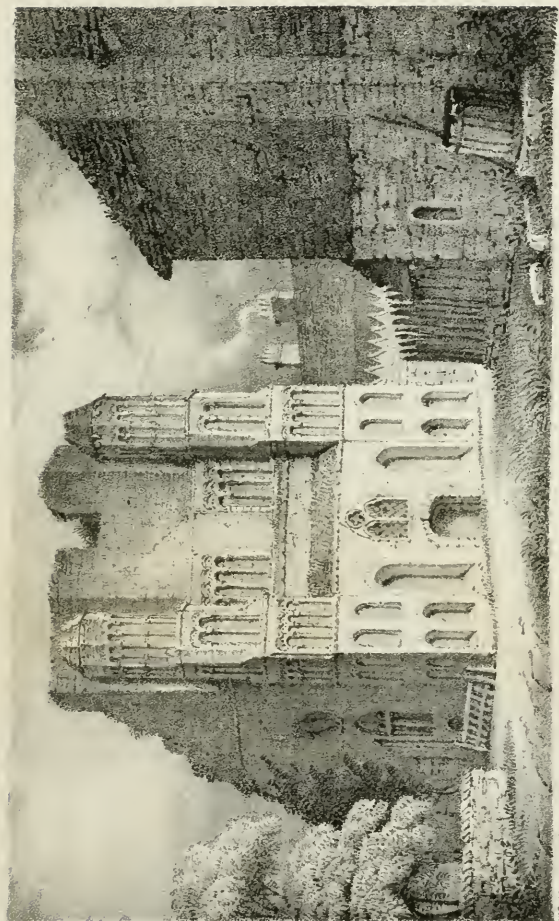
founded about the year 1078, by Gundulph, bishop of Rochester, the church of which was dedicated to the blessed Virgin.* He governed this establishment himself, and, when dying, appointed Avice lady abbess; but, before he consigned to her the pastoral staff, ring, and gloves, he obliged her to promise canonical subjection to the see of Rochester, and to swear that no nun should be admitted, nor abbess appointed to that house, without the consent of him and his successors. Lambarde, in his zeal against papistry, insinuates that the bishop annexed these conditions from an attentive regard to the comfort of the monks of Rochester, and gives a long paragraph in support of this opinion under the head of *The Solaces of Sole life*. Gundulph, in 1090, endowed the nunnery with the manors of East and West Malling, together with the church of the latter, and the chapel of St. Leonard in this parish, and this place, which, before the founding of the abbey, had borne the name of Malling Parva, soon became a town of consequence. In the reign of Richard I. both the town and abbey were devastated by fire; but, by the munificence of that monarch, and the contributions of individuals in the neighbourhood, they were soon rebuilt. In the year 1348 an epidemical disease raged in West Malling, which, in a short time, carried off two abbesses, and almost depopulated the convent, leaving only four professed, and the same number of uninitiated nuns. In the 30th year of Henry VIII. this house was surrendered into

* See Kilburne.

the hands of the king by Margaret Vernon, the abbess, and her eleven nuns; and in the next year the site of it was granted to Cranmer, with its appendant manors.*

To this summary of the history of Malling abbey, I must add a description of its venerable remains. The approach is by a fine gateway tower, with two archways; over the smaller one of which are three shields, two bearing the arms of benefactors of the house, and the other, a heart pierced with an arrow and distilling drops of blood. This device was probably intended as an emblem of the nature of the house—an asylum for the heart wounded by the follies or cares of the world. On the left-hand side, within this tower and connected with it, there is an antique oratory, which is now used as a dwelling; the window at the eastern end is worth the notice of the antiquary; but the most attractive part of the ruins is the western tower of the conventual church, which is undoubtedly a portion of the work of Gundulph: on either side of it is a turret richly decorated with small semicircular arches ornamented with chevron or zigzag mouldings and grotesque heads. This portion of the abbey is of a design very similar to the western end of Rochester cathedral, the work of the same bishop; it forms the subject of the illustration for this walk. Some stone coffins containing human skeletons, and a quantity of human bones, have, at different times, been dug up near the south side of the church. The situation of the abbey is

* See Hasted.



MANICEN G. 418 28 10 11

particularly pleasant ; a fine stream flows through the grounds, in which there were formerly several large ponds. The present house was built about the middle of the last century by Frazer Honeywood, Esq. who, at that time, possessed the estate : it is in the Gothic style. Mr. Losack is now the proprietor of Malling abbey.

The CHURCH of this place has a Norman tower at the west end, and contains some curious old brasses : the nave was rebuilt in the latter part of the last century.

I have before said that the chapel of ST. LEONARD was attached to this nunnery ; the hamlet of St. Leonard lies a short distance to the southward of Malling street : a part of the square tower of the chapel still remains, which seems to be of the same age as the ruins of the abbey.

As the distance between West Malling, and the remains of LEYBOURNE CASTLE scarcely exceeds a mile, we could not omit visiting the latter, although we had already exceeded our usual limits. In the reign of William the Conqueror, the manor of Leybourne was given to one of his knights, Sir William d'Arsic ; but the castle, for there appears to have been one here before the conquest, was held by the Leybournes, then, and for many succeeding reigns, a family of distinction. Sir Roger de Leybourne was among the Kentish knights who attended Richard I. to the Holy Land, and he particularly distinguished himself at the siege of Acon. His grandson, also Sir Roger, in the 36th year of Henry the

III, killed Ernulf de Mounteney in a grand tournament of the knights of the Round Table, which was held at Walden in Essex : Mounteney had in a previous encounter broken Leybourne's leg, and it was supposed that the latter thus took revenge for the injury, as his lance was without a rocket and struck his adversary's throat, which accidentally wanted the protection of a gorget. His son, Sir William, entertained Edward I. at Leybourne castle, who immediately afterwards appointed him his Admiral. Two of his younger sons, Henry and Simon de Leybourne, were knighted by Edward the I. under the royal banner at Carlaverock in Scotland, for their gallant conduct at the siege of that place. Sir William de Leybourne survived all his children, and died early in the reign of Edward the II. leaving his grand-daughter Juliana his heir. Her property in this county was so great that she was commonly called the *Infanta of Kent* : she was thrice married ; first to John de Hastings, secondly to Thomas le Blount, and lastly to Sir William de Clinton, afterwards Earl of Huntingdon. On her death, no person was found who could take her estates, which therefore escheated to the crown, and this part of them was granted to the abbey of St. Mary Graces, on Tower-hill, London. On the dissolution of that monastery, Henry VIII. gave Leybourne manor in exchange to Archbishop Cranmer, but afterwards resumed it, and gave it to Sir Edward North, chancellor of his court of augmentation. After passing through several families it was purchased by James Hawley, M.D. and F.R.S. in

the year 1776, and now belongs to Sir Joseph Henry Hawley, Bart.*

Only a part of the entrance, and the towers which flanked it, with a few fragments of walls, now remain of this castle. The moat enclosed about three quarters of an acre of land. The ruin is probably a portion of the castle which Sir Roger de Leybourne built in the reign of Richard I.

As in our return to Maidstone we took the road which passes along the north-western-side of the paddock of PRESTON HALL, the seat of Charles Milner, Esq., to Aylesford, we had an opportunity of inspecting the buildings on Mr. Milner's estate which bear the very remote date of 1102. This date, and the initials T. C. with the arms of the Culpepers quartered with those of the Hardreshulls, are to be seen on the lintel of a stone door-case in a brick building, which stands by the side of the road, and on the end of a stone barn, near the mansion. Neither of these buildings seems to be of more ancient date than the 16th century, so that it may be presumed they were erected by Thomas Colepeper, who possessed Preston Hall, in the reigns of Mary and Elizabeth, and that he set up the date 1102, to mark the time at which one of his ancestors first acquired that estate, and added his arms, quartered with those of Hardreshull, to denote that he belonged to that branch of the Culpepers, of which one, in the reign of Edward III. had married a lady of the Hardreshull family. The date in both instances is in Arabic numerals, which were not used in Europe till the latter end of the 13th

* See Hasted.

century, nor were coats of armour quartered before the beginning of the 14th; it would, therefore be absurd to suppose, that these stones were cut at the time to which the date they bear refers.*

We then descended the hill towards Aylesford, but turned to the right on approaching the bridge, as by crossing that, we should have passed from this our last division, into our first.

In deepening the river about nine years ago, several ancient weapons and other articles, made of a curious mixed metal, the art of compounding which is now lost, were found in the shoal near Little Preston. Among them were many fine specimens of the small battle-axe, commonly called a *celt*; and a sword blade about 18 inches in length. These, with other weapons of a similar description, which have, at different times, been discovered in this neighbourhood, are probably the relics of the engagement which took place between the Britons and Saxons in this neighbourhood, and is noticed in the first excursion, in which, however, I omitted to state that the Saxons had been previously defeated at Darent, and were overtaken in their flight by the Britons at Aylesford, formerly called *Anglesford* or *Eglesford*,—the ford of the Saxons.

We continued in the path along the western bank of the river, passing by the lonely little church of Allington to Great Buckland, which is situated on the side of the hill near the Medway. This name

* Haisted mentions some other early inscriptions in Arabic figures.

seems to be a corruption of Bocland, which, in the Saxon, was used to denote lands held by deed, *boc* signifying a book or roll of writing. This estate is now divided into two farms, Great, and Little Buckland. The manor, previous to the time of John, was held by the Archbishop of Canterbury, who then granted it to a family, which took its surname from it, in whose hands it continued till the reign of Richard II. when it again passed back to the church, and was annexed to the College of All Saints, at Maidstone, by the founder, Archbishop Courtney. On the dissolution of that establishment, in the first year of Edward VI., this estate was held by the Smyths, or Smythes, and continued in their tenure for many years after that time. The pedigree and arms of this family, which has ever since continued in this neighbourhood, are given in the Visitation of Kent, made in the time of James I. Edward VI. granted Buckland to Sir George Brooke, Lord Cobham, whose grandson forfeited it with his other estates for treason against James I. However, his wife was permitted to enjoy this part of them for her life; on her death it was given to Robert Cecil, Earl of Salisbury, from whose family it passed through many hands, till about the beginning of the last century, when it went by marriage to the Finch family: it still forms part of the Earl of Aylesford's property. The old mansion is yet entire, and exhibits a good specimen of the style of country houses in the beginning of the 17th century.

After pausing for a few minutes, to enjoy the de-

lightful view of Maidstone and the beautiful scenery that environs it on every side, which the path from Buckland commands, we entered the town, and thus completed the pleasing task of our perambulatory excursions.

P O E T R Y.



THE MEDWAY.

Wanderer of a vale as fair
As Eden's garden in its prime,
Where angels deign'd its sweets to share,
With man, then pure as they from crime,—
Unto the gazer's raptur'd eyes
The scenes that deck thy lovely stream,
Soft Medway, more than realize
Of Poesy the brightest dream,
And task the painter's subtlest art
Their beauties' semblance to impart.
With thine enlink'd shines many a name
Bright in the choicest lists of Fame :
Thy mazy way too lies among
Fields which can boast full many a spot
Still hallow'd by Tradition's song,
Nor e'en in History's page forgot.
The Lusian stream, to which of old
The poets gave a bed of gold,*
And that, whose rapid currents sweep
'Neath Drachenfels' proud castled steep,
Though grac'd with Nature's majesty,
In loveliness must yield to thee:—
The velvet mead ;—the hanging wood,
Stooping to kiss thy silvery flood ;—

* Tagus aurifer.—SILIVS.

The golden corn-field, shining here ;—
The thriving orchard, smiling there ;—
The neat white cot, scarce seen among
 The shelt'ring groves of some sweet dell,
Which echoes all the spring night long
 The soft love-notes of Philomel ;—
The village spire,—and on the hill
The, here for ever busy, mill :—
The frequent arches o'er thee laid ;—
The town by thee enrich'd with trade ;—
The shady elms,—the oaks more grand,
To form the bulwarks of our land ;—
The ruin'd tower, whose spectral air
 Of glories gone doth sadly tell ;—
The park and modern mansion, where
 Retiring Wealth and Honour dwell ;—
The craggy glen ;—the flowery nook,
Enlivened by the sparkling brook ;—
The hops, supplying here the place
Of vines, as well in use as grace :—
These are the charms strewn round thy path,
 And that is beauty's perfect line :
Can Cintra boast that such she hath ?
 Do such adorn the banks of Rhine ?—
While, with a gentle swell around,
 The blue hills in the distance rise,
A soft and worthy chain to bound
 And fence this England's paradise !
Well might the bosom doom'd to roam
 From scenes which such delights bestow,
 E'en midst the lovely Pays de Vaud,
Thus breathe its longing sighs for home.

My native land ! beloved clime !

Thou brightest gem that decks the sea !

Ever to thee at eve's soft time,

My thoughts in mournful fondness flee :

Though lovely scenes around me shine,

I turn from them to dream of thine.

Though here the Alps about me raise

Their heads, as if to meet the skies,

To those soft hills my fancy strays,

Which round my native valley rise ;

Though amidst splendor still I pine

For charms which can be only thine.

With front of stately pride, this tower

Looks on the smiling lake below,—

But lovelier far to me the bower

Near which the Medway's waters flow ;

Though Leman brightly blue may shine,

More dear to me that stream of thine.

Yes, lovely and beloved land,

This hour e'er brings thee to mine eye,—

Awhile in bliss entranc'd I stand,

Then wake for absent scenes to sigh ;

While pleasures here as spells combine

To make me think the more of thine.

LINES

WRITTEN IN THE RUINS OF ALLINGTON CASTLE.

Here, where once stood the festive hall,
Now strewn in ruin wide,
I'll sit me on the broken wall,
To muse on human pride :
The lesson books have feebly told,
E'en to the eye these towers unfold,
And vanity deride ;
Straight to the heart those truths they teach,
Which Stoics long might vainly preach.

Ah ! who would now deem, Allington,
Beholding thy decay,
Thou wast the lov'd retreat of one,
The glory of his day .
Would deem thy riven, ivied towers
Were once the Muses' loveliest bowers,—
That Wit and Learning's ray
Bright'ning thy courts had ever shone,—
Where silent gloom now reigns alone.

Yet, though thy noontide glories now
Are past, on Medway's stream,
Like yonder sun from western brow,
Thou smil'st with setting beam ;—
He goes his way again to rise
In morning splendor through the skies,—
How fondly could I dream,
Albeit in vain, that so with thee
The future as the past might be.

All is but vanity ;—a span
Equals our time to live,—
Yet, of its flight unmindful, man
Rears dwellings to survive
Even the echo of his name,—
Save when supported by the fame
Which virtuous actions give ;
Such as protects thy Wiat's tomb
For ever from Oblivion's gloom :

For he reposed not his trust
On strength of turrets high ;
Nor look'd to things of mould'ring dust
For immortality ;
His confidence, *his* treasure lay
Far 'bove the danger of decay ;
To heaven he rais'd his eye :
Thus, upon earth his fame ensur'd ;
Thus, an eternal crown secur'd.

TWILIGHT

ON THE BANKS OF THE MEDWAY.

If in this life of toil one hour be given,
An earnest of the tranquil bliss of heaven,
'Tis that which rises when the summer Sun
Declines into the west, his circuit done :—
Ling'ring he seems to feel the soothing pow'r,
The heavenly influence of the coming hour,
Then, sinking down his gilded screen below,
He leaves to man the joys he can't bestow.

O, then 'tis sweet to roam by Medway's side,
Where Fant's soft groves o'erhang the gentle tide;
Or where with orchards rich, enchanting sight!
The golden hops their elegance unite;
Or where the Wiats' time-worn towers display
The vestiges of grandeur pass'd away;
While Memory lends to each endeared scene
The rainbow hues which *once* its own have been;
And with her soft "*'Twas here!*" — demands a sigh
For hopes which crush'd, yet, worm-like, will not die.
O, then how sweetly beams the Evening-star,
No stronger light her loveliness to mar;
From us withdrawn, 'tis sweet to mark the day
Still light the hill-tops with a pallid ray,
Till o'er them, one by one, the darkness thrown,
Mild Evening undisputed reigns alone,
To mortals sent in pity from above,
The beauteous queen of peace, of rest, of love.

THE END.

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CORRECTIONS.

- Page 1, line 15, for 'nearly' read 'more than'
 — 5, note, for '34th' read '22d.'
 — 21, line 32, for '12' read '13'
 — 22, The head-master of the Subscription Academy does
 not hold his house rent free.
 — 34, line 28, for 'include' read 'included'
 — 40. — 14, after 'in' read 'this'
 — 41, — 12, for '34' read '33.'—J. Jefferys was born
 in the spring of 1751.
 — 43, — 10, for 'caried' read 'carried'
 — 51, — 4, dele 'con-'
 — 56, — 19, for 'it' read 'Kits Coty House'
 — 57, lines 27 and 28, for 'a sacrificial altar or a monumental
 trophy' read 'sacrificial altars or monumental trophies'
 — 94, last line, for 'it' read 'its'

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